



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education policy

Rationale

Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) affirms and acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the original inhabitants of Australia and recognise their ongoing connection to the land, rivers and seas. TCS acknowledges and respects the spiritual beliefs and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

TCS will recognise and celebrate the special gifts, histories and cultures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families bring to their school communities.

In partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their communities, TCS aims to meet the special and diverse educational needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, their families and communities.

TCS has a strong commitment to Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In this we are guided by our values of human dignity, limitless potential and fullness of life as well as the principles of social justice and equity as reflected in the living Gospel message.

This policy statement affirms that the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in education is supported by the successful embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the curriculum and the teaching, learning, assessment and reporting processes through which the curriculum is enacted. Educational success will also be enhanced by strong engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with their children's schools.

Values

The TCS values of human dignity, limitless potential and fullness of life underpin this policy statement. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the TCS community and other members of that community relate to each other in mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility. It is because of our recognition of the inherent dignity of all human persons and heeding God's call to his people call to act justly, that our words and actions reflect TCS's hopes for the educational success of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Policy statement

Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools will work in collaborative partnerships with its members who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities to develop local policies and procedures that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to have equitable access to a quality Catholic education that is mutually enriching for all.

Consequences

When considering education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students all schools will

- develop appropriate enrolment procedures which encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to access Catholic schools
- implement appropriate pedagogies that align with current curriculum requirements to support the diverse range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners
- actively engage in inclusive curriculum practices which reflect and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, histories, cultures and spirituality
- incorporate the spirit of Reconciliation in educational activities whenever appropriate



- affirm the knowledge and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and encourage their contribution and participation in contemporary Catholic learning community activities
- develop and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to gain leadership skills and transition successfully to University education, training or employment.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba