



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander EDUCATION NETWORK

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia. We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, the land, sea, and waterways were, and always will be, traditional Indigenous land.

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Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Education Network

Welcome to the E-News, the newsletter for all members who have indicated an interest in being part of the QTU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Network.

The QTU has been busy working with the Union's Gandu Jarjum committee members, our Reconciliation Action Plan committee and the Department of Education on a range of matters. The Union was a sponsor of and an active presence at the DoE's Indigenous Conference in the July school holidays, where we connected with our members from across the state and recruited new members. Recognition goes to Gandu Jarjum member and principal of Bwgcolman Community School, Beresford Domic, for bringing an enthusiastic team to Brisbane for the conference. This was the largest group of colleagues registered from one school.

At the federal level, the most recent edition of the [Educator Australia](#) has an article on the federal government's appointment of a special envoy, which may of interest to you.

Moving from a Reflect RAP to an Innovate RAP

The QTU's vision for reconciliation is for a society that respects, protects and promotes the rights of all, and in which Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians live and work together with mutual respect and understanding, free from discrimination and harassment.

As the union for Queensland public school and TAFE teachers and school leaders, we recognise the unique role our schools and educational institutions have in achieving this vision.

Recently, the QTU held a full day workshop for members of the QTU's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee. The day was very productive, noting that the QTU is actively working towards moving from a Reflect RAP to an Innovate RAP. The launch is planned for the QTU's Biennial Conference, which will be held in the 2019 winter vacation. Speaking of Reconciliation Action Plans, the QTU is interested in hearing about your schools' journeys towards reconciliation. Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning RAP model has been specifically designed to support schools and their communities explore reconciliation and develop their local action plan. For more information, visit Reconciliation Australia's [Narragunnawali](#) page or read this [Journal article](#).

Gandu Jarjum – the QTU’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee

Gandu Jarjum is the QTU’s committee of and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members, providing leadership, guidance and grassroots member knowledge and insights to the Union on matters related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teacher employment and the provision of quality school and vocational education, particularly in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

Gandu Jarjum’s spirit is captured in its name. Recommended by the Brisbane Council of Elders, it means “children children”. Gandu from the Matya-Mundu language of south west Queensland and jarjum from the Yugumbir language of the region to the south of Brisbane. Gandu Jarjum committee members are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander educators working in locations across the state.



Gandu Jarjum members with Brisbane Elder Aunty Valda Coolwell at the opening of the 2017 QTU Biennial Conference

Please find a link to Gandu Jarjum’s [flyer](#) inviting colleagues to identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander QTU member, if they haven’t already done so. Identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander teacher with the QTU enables the Union to provide member specific information, including professional development opportunities.

Expression of Interest – temporary, full-time recruitment officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership growth

Just over a week ago, all members who have identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members of the QTU were emailed an expression of interest (Eoi) applicant package for a temporary full-time recruitment officer position for term four (only). Expressions of interest closes at noon on Friday 7 September. This is an identified position for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person to be employed on the basis of a genuine occupational requirement, in accordance with Section 25 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (QLD). The QTU considers the advertisement to be an equal opportunity measure under s105 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. If you would like to know more, please contact the QTU by emailing services@qtu.asn.au with “temporary recruitment officer position” in the subject line.

Special membership offer for term three

Membership is always important. Please let your colleagues know about the QTU’s [special membership offer](#), which is available now.