

18 August 2011

Our Ref: 43036

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretary,

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (QCPCA) RESPONSE TO INQUIRY INTO LANGUAGE LEARNING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

QCPCA welcome the inquiry into language learning in indigenous communities and would like to thank the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for the opportunity to provide input.

QCPCA policy states that 'in indigenous communities where the indigenous language is used, it should be considered a legitimate LOTE (Language other than English) subject; in indigenous communities where cultural recovery is under way Education Queensland should support the community and other research bodies to develop the indigenous language as a LOTE subject'.

With reference to the T.O.R, QCPCA believe that there is a real benefit to giving attention to and recognition of Indigenous languages and that the teaching of these languages can help to close the gap by strengthening Indigenous identity and culture.

It is important to note that Language and Culture must start at home. If our parents do not enforce or implement this at home then it will make the task for the education system even greater.

To add value to the teaching of indigenous languages we must consider teaching and assessment methods within the context of desired outcomes and how it will be valued across the country when moving into the workforce. We recognise the diversity of indigenous language across Australia and the inherent challenges in the teaching and assessment of this diversity.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you wish to discuss these comments further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Margaret Leary, QCPCA State President