

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On 9 March 1998, the following matter was referred to the Committee for inquiry.

In conducting its inquiry into the effectiveness of education and training programs for indigenous Australians, the committee:

- (a) surveyed the recommendations arising over the past decade from parliamentary, government, commission and agency reports which deal with Aboriginal education and training;
- (b) assessed the implementation, ongoing relevance and efficacy of recommendations which seek to raise educational achievement and to employ culturally-appropriate pedagogy to maximise participation of indigenous Australians in formal educational settings;
- (c) examined the extent to which recommendations aimed at improving indigenous peoples' educational participation and achievement have been implemented by the relevant authorities, and evaluate the benefits which have flowed from them;
- (d) identified any obstacles to the achievement of participation of indigenous Australians in education and training and make recommendations as to how these might be overcome;
- (e) examined recent initiatives which have proven successful in improving the participation rates and levels of achievement of indigenous Australians in the national vocational education and training system;
- (f) formulated advice concerning the development and management of education and training programs by indigenous Australians for indigenous Australians; and
- (g) provided a comparative account of the levels of resources, both Commonwealth and State, devoted to education and training programs for indigenous Australians.

