

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Prime Minister launches ground-breaking guide to best practice in Indigenous education

Today the Honourable Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia will launch a ground-breaking guide to best practice in Indigenous education, published by the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) and supported by HSBC Bank.

The AIEF Compendium of best practice for achieving successful outcomes with Indigenous students in Australian boarding schools draws on interviews, surveys and discussions with over 160 educators at more than 50 leading Australian schools to identify the critical factors influencing successful outcomes – Year 12 completion and career transitions – among Indigenous boarding students.

The result is a practical guide intended to assist schools to establish a successful Indigenous education program, and to provide advice that can assist schools with established programs to fine-tune their strategies.

Because ‘best practice’ in this field is constantly evolving, AIEF has also established an interactive portal, the AIEF Compendium Online, where educators can continue to develop and share best practice in real time.

AIEF Executive Director Andrew Penfold AM said AIEF decided to embark on the project after observing similarities between leading Indigenous education programs.

“AIEF was established to support schools with great programs to scale their programs, by offering scholarships to create more opportunities for Indigenous students.”

“Over time, as we partnered with more schools to offer more scholarships, we found schools had a lot in common when it came to the practices and approaches that were fundamental to the success of their programs.”

“For the most part, these practices developed in isolation, over many years, through a process of trial and error; and this gave us cause to consider what could be achieved if the expertise within these programs was collected, collated and shared with boarding schools across the country.”

“By equipping schools with the expertise of educators with a track record of success in Indigenous education, the AIEF Compendium could help schools achieve outcomes in years that could otherwise take decades.”

AIEF will distribute copies of the AIEF Compendium to schools across Australia, and is encouraging educators to sign up at compendium.aief.com.au to network and share ideas and questions with other professionals.

Andrew Penfold said the AIEF Compendium had the potential to assist schools around the country to achieve better outcomes with thousands more students than the 7,000 AIEF aims to support through its programs.

“Just as AIEF Scholarships enable individual schools to scale their programs, the AIEF Compendium has the potential to scale opportunities and success rates in boarding schools across Australia to the benefit of thousands more Indigenous students.”

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About AIEF | www.aief.com.au

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) is a private sector-led, non-profit organisation focused on empowering Indigenous children in financial need to build a brighter future for themselves and for the nation.

AIEF provides scholarships which enable Indigenous students to attend leading Australian schools and universities, as well as mentoring and career support to ensure students make a successful transition from school to further studies or employment, productive careers and fulfilling lives.

AIEF has the highest rate of Year 12 completion of any federally funded program in Australia, and almost 100% of students supported by AIEF have embarked on a productive career pathway after completing secondary school.

A product of a strong partnership between the Australian Government and the private sector, AIEF is building a \$140 million fund to open the doors to leading schools and universities for 7,000 young Indigenous Australians.

AIEF People

AIEF is under the Patronage of some of Australia's most respected civic leaders and is managed and governed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals with proven track-records in the private sector.

AIEF Patrons

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (Patron-in-Chief)
Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO
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AIEF Educational Partners

New South Wales

- Cranbrook School (Boys)
- Kincoppal-Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart (Girls)
- Knox Grammar School (Boys)
- Loreto Normanhurst (Girls)
- Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney (Girls)
- Pymble Ladies' College (Girls)
- Shalom College, The University of New South Wales (Co-Ed)
- St Catherine's School, Waverley (Girls)
- St Gregory's College Campbelltown (Boys)
- St Ignatius' College, Riverview (Boys)
- St Scholastica's College (Girls)
- St Vincent's College, Potts Point (Girls)
- The Armidale School (Boys)
- The Scots College (Boys)

Victoria

- Melbourne Grammar School (Boys)
- Scotch College, Melbourne (Boys)

Queensland

- Brisbane Boys' College (Boys)
- Clayfield College (Girls)
- Emmanuel College (Co-Ed)
- Ipswich Girls' Grammar School (Girls)
- Ipswich Grammar School (Boys)
- Marist College Ashgrove (Boys)
- St Augustine's College (Boys)
- St Joseph's Nudgee College (Boys)
- St Monica's College, Cairns (Girls)
- St Peters Lutheran College (Co-Ed)
- St Saviour's College (Girls)
- The Cathedral School (Co-Ed)
- Toowoomba Anglican College and Preparatory School (Co-Ed)

Western Australia

- Aquinas College (Boys)
- La Salle College (Co-Ed)
- Presbyterian Ladies' College, Perth (Girls)
- Scotch College (Boys)
- Trinity College (Boys)
- Wesley College, South Perth (Boys)