

LANGUAGES PROGRAMS IN EAST ARNHEM ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS 1993

Our Schools

East Arnhem has eleven schools - three urban and eight in Aboriginal communities. There are also 22 Homeland Learning Centres. Five of the eight Aboriginal schools are now CECs with the addition of Gapuwiyak this year. Three community schools are officially 'bilingual'.

Our Teachers

In recent years staffing of Aboriginal community schools has changed greatly. Extracts from the Superintendent's newsletter (*Education in East Arnhem- Commencement of 1993*. F.B. Stewart) may be of interest.

*There are 179 (NTTS) teaching staff and 122 *(NTPS) support staff in the region.' (*This figure includes Homeland educators.)*

The following statistical information exemplifies the region's level of Aboriginal participation in staffing and the education programs of our schools.

*19% of the teacher staffing of all our schools (NTTS)
19% of teachers holding promotion positions in all our schools
25% of Principals in all our schools
77% of support (NT Public Service) staff in all our schools
44% of the total staffing of all our schools'*

This year 12 teachers were recruited for Aboriginal schools, three being Batchelor College graduates. In general, staff retention in community schools has been good.

Our Programs

Departmental core curriculum is fully implemented in our schools with particular emphasis on English literacy and Western maths. Teachers are increasingly using system-based sources of curriculum guidance (such as the ASCMP materials). When appropriate, curriculum materials are modified or adapted. Teachers also develop their own local programs.

As 'ownership' of our schools passes into Aboriginal hands, school-based curriculum initiatives are being taken in developing or extending Aboriginal languages and culture programs. The what, why, who, when, where and how of these programs is controlled by Aboriginal teachers and community members. Six out of the eight schools (including 'non-bilingual' schools) now have Aboriginal languages and culture curriculums.

English Language Programs

The impact on schools of the 'new' English curriculum and the ASCMP support materials has led to an increased demand for professional development and inservicing for the teaching of English. The region presently has only one ESL Co-ordinator and will be looking to CASU and other advisory and curriculum officers to help in addressing teachers' needs.

Of major concern to many teachers is programming and planning, particularly identifying appropriate learning outcomes and meaningful assessment strategies. Of special concern is designing programs for developing initial literacy. This involves students of all ages who do not have literacy in either their own language or English.

One of our initiatives for this year is to design a more effective, self-sustaining school-based model of professional development.

Carlyn Donovan
ESL Co-ordinator

**ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURE PROGRAMS
IN EAST ARNHEM SCHOOLS 1993**

SCHOOL	TYPE	STATUS	SCHOOL-BASED ABORIGINAL CURRICULUM
Nhulunbuy Primary School	Yrs Pre -7	-	-
Nhulunbuy High School	Yrs 8 -12	-	-
Alyangula Area School	Yrs Pre -10	-	-
Angurugu	CEC	Non-Bilingual	-
Gapuwiyak	CEC	Non-Bilingual	Culture and oral language program <i>Djambarrpuyŋu</i>
Milingimbi	CEC	Bilingual <i>Gupapuyŋu</i>	<i>D.M.G</i> culture and language program Includes language workshops for all local community languages including <i>Gupapuyŋu</i> .
Numbulwar	Yrs Pre - PP	Non-Bilingual	<i>Nunggubuyu / Anindilyakwa / Ritharrŋu</i> programs Culture program
Ramingining	Yrs Pre - PP	Non-Bilingual	Oral language program (All local community languages)
Shepherdson College (Galiwin'ku)	CEC	Bilingual <i>Djambarrpuyŋu</i>	The Dialects program Language and culture program All local community languages including <i>Djambarrpuyŋu</i>
Umbakumba	Yrs Pre - PP	Non-Bilingual	-
Yirrkala	CEC	Bilingual All languages valued equally. <i>Dhuwaya</i> for initial literacy in formal program.	<i>Yolŋu Dhäruk</i> (own languages) programs <i>Galtha</i> workshops <i>Garma</i> maths