



NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) Recognised for Contribution to the State of NSW

The NSW AECG Office and Records have been listed on the State Heritage Register. Listing on the State Heritage Register recognises that the NSW AECG Offices and Records, is of particular significance to New South Wales and enriches the community's understanding of the State's history.

The Statement of significance reads:

The Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) office and Records is of state heritage significance as the office and working core of the peak Aboriginal Education body in NSW. The NSW AECG has historically turned the tide on the exclusion of Aboriginal people from European education and provided the first NSW Aboriginal Education Policy, support materials and actions to be produced and mandated in NSW schools. This policy was in fact the first Aboriginal Education Policy to be developed in Australia.

The state heritage significance of the NSW AECG office and Records in Stanmore is enhanced through its association with the NSW AECG, the community based and democratic organisation that has worked tirelessly to make the Aboriginal community's voice heard loud and strong in the NSW educational system. The state heritage significance of the item also derives from association with numerous important Aboriginal education activists and leading figures in the NSW Aboriginal community.

The NSW AECG office and Records is of social significance at a state level for its special association with the Aboriginal community across NSW. This is expressed in the structure of the organisation which ensures that local Aboriginal people have a say in the education of their children through local AECGs which in turn report ideas and information through regional AECG and finally to the peak AECG situated at the Cavendish Property. The inclusiveness is expressed through modifications to the building to accommodate meetings of state wide representatives and access to resources for those involved in education all over NSW. Its location away from the education bureaucracy reinforces its independence and community base.

The NSW AECG office and records is a rare example of a building which is the home of the peak organization concerned with Aboriginal Education in NSW. The combined physical resources, organisation minutes, reports and educational resource documents housed there represents a significant research resource on the history of Aboriginal education in NSW.

The Minister for Heritage directed the listing on 21 December 2017 and the listing appeared in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales on 19 January 2018. We should all be proud of the NSW AECG's achievements and thankful to those who have contributed to them since it began and to those who continue to contribute to them today