

2011 NSW AECG INC.  
ANNUAL REPORT

**Disclaimer:**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this report may contain images and names of deceased persons.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2011 has seen the NSW AECG Inc. continue to grow. The Connecting to Country Program continued to be rolled out in more communities to more workers involved in education and training and continues to be one of the most effective professional learning opportunities in Aboriginal education. The Region and Local AECG's who continue to facilitate the program is a testament to what can be achieved when Aboriginal communities and education institutions work collaboratively together and have a respectful partnership.

2011 also saw the NSW AECG Inc. continue its advocacy role with positive results. The Centre for Aboriginal Language Coordination and Development was tendered for with success to support Aboriginal communities reclaim, revitalise and maintain their languages. This was a direct result from recommendations listened to at community forums facilitated by the NSW AECG Inc. The huge task lies ahead in transforming the Centre into an operational model that will support Aboriginal communities across New South Wales in reclaiming, revitalising and maintaining their languages.

Aboriginality and Identity was also a talking point throughout the year with well attended community forums held to discuss and debate this very topical issue. Bob Morgan Consultancy facilitated the forums and a summary of what was articulated was produced with a series of recommendations in a report entitled *Aboriginality and Identity* distributed to members and the wider community.

We also received additional funding under the Australian Governments Parent and Community Engagement Program to support parents engage in education and training. This program will be ongoing in 2012.

The NSW AECG Inc. has also seen itself with an increasing national role within Aboriginal education and training with appointments to a number of national reference groups including the newly established First Peoples Education Advisory Group and the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group. These are leadership roles and opportunities to influence policy.

Partnerships also continue to be forged with a number of key stakeholders. This year saw the establishment of the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations and a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on how we can work together in unity and speak with one voice.

The NSW AECG Inc. continues to have a membership that volunteers their time daily in educational institutions to support Aboriginal people achieve their aspirations or for the betterment of what an education can do to change a person's life.

The achievements and influence of the NSW AECG Inc. is the result of the hard work of its members in empowering Aboriginal people towards the goal of self-determination. This report highlights just a snapshot of the journey taken throughout 2011.

**Cindy Berwick President NSW AECG Inc.**

# 1

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NSW AECG INC.  
FUNCTIONS &  
STRUCTURE

# VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. is to provide advice on all matters relevant to education and training with the mandate that this advice represents the Aboriginal community viewpoint.

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. promotes respect, empowerment and self-determination and believes the process of collaborative consultation is integral to equal partnerships and is fundamental to the achievement of equality.

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. advocates cultural affirmation, integrity and the pursuit of equality to ensure that the unique and diverse identity of Aboriginal students is recognised and valued.

# AIMS

To ensure that the functions and powers of members are facilitated with the premise that the most critically important part of the consultative process is the active involvement of Local AECG members and communities.

To provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be actively involved in all decision-making that is relevant to education and training through a collaborative consultative process.

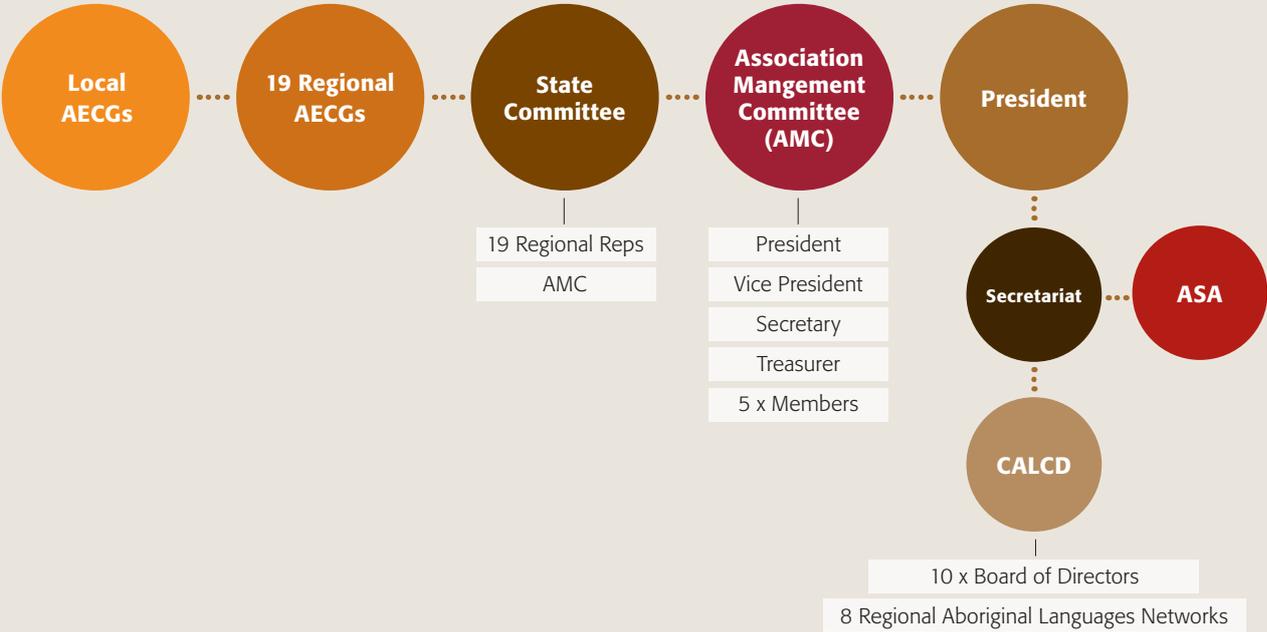
To empower members by providing appropriate and effective knowledge and skills to engage in the development of policies and programs that enhance the unique cultural identity of Aboriginal students and promote pride in Aboriginality.

## The Role and Structure of the Organisation

The primary role of the NSW AECG Inc is to promote active participation by Aboriginal people in the consultative and decision making process of education and training related matters.

Our strong member base is key to the organisation being the peak advisory body regarding Aboriginal Education and Training at both State and Commonwealth levels. As a wholly volunteer based organisation, our key focus is 'community first'; the educational rights of Aboriginal people in NSW being our driving force.

The NSW AECG Inc has a local, regional and state network that enables effective communication allowing Aboriginal community viewpoint to be echoed throughout the organisation.



## ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



### **Cindy Berwick President**

Cindy grew up in the inner city of Sydney and is a Ngunnawal woman descending from the Bell family in Yass.

As a secondary mathematics teacher she commenced her teaching career in 1984 and has held various executive positions both within schools and across NSW Department of Education. Cindy has also lectured at Sydney University and University of Western Sydney.

Cindy believes Aboriginal people should self determine their own future and has a strong commitment to social justice.



### **Tom Flanders Vice President**

Tom is a descendent of the Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung and Yaegal Peoples of the North Coast of NSW.

Tom had become involved in the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (NSWAECG) in the early 80's as a volunteer. Tom has completed an Associate Diploma in Social Welfare at Macarthur University.

As Vice President of the Association, Tom represents the NSW AECG Inc. on several State and National Committee.

### **Lesley Armstrong Treasurer**

*(resigned in October 2011)*

Lesley is a Yuin woman from the South Coast of NSW and has been involved in Aboriginal Education for over two decades.

Currently residing on the Central Coast Lesley has strong family connections to the La Perouse and South Coast Communities.

Lesley has worked as an Aboriginal Education Officer at Gorokan High School and has seen the Central Coast Aboriginal community grow from strength to strength.

Lesley believes that getting Aboriginal people engaged in education will only better the next generations' educational opportunities that would then build success.



### **Susan Matthews (Kinchela) Secretary**

Susan Matthews (Kinchela) is a strong Wiradjuri woman, who strongly believes that education is the key to change for all our people's.

Susan has been involved with the NSW AECG Inc. for well over two decades. Her greatest achievement was raising four amazing children, three of the four giving Susan ten equally amazing grandchildren.

Susan believes "even though we all make a difference we will achieve a lot more united than we would divided. Let's make it happen. Our kids deserve no less."



### **Michele Grove Member**

Michele grew up in Sydney and identifies as a Gandangara woman. Michele has strong links with the La Perouse and South Coast Aboriginal communities where she still continues to take her children to visit family and friends.

This year Michele was nominated to the AMC for the first time and has fulfilled her roles and responsibilities with professionalism and dignity. Michele always advocates for the betterment of Aboriginal students and communities.

Michele currently works in Catholic Education as an Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.



### **Stella Lamb Member**

Stella Lamb is from the Gomeri and Yuwaalaraay Nations and currently resides in Werris Creek. Stella is currently the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) in the New England Region for the Department of Education and Communities and is based in Tamworth.

Being an ACLO for almost 11 years Stella loves the challenge of the position and holds great respect for everyone. Stella pays homage to the ones who have guided her through her journey "having had a very good and supportive husband and a wonderful mum and dad I found it easy to balance my family and work life. I will always be grateful to these wonderful people who shared everything with me. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for them".



### **Gwen Griffen Member**

Gwen currently lives in Gunnedah NSW where she is actively involved in the betterment of Aboriginal people through many organisations.

Gwen is the President of the Gunnedah Local AECG and is also the longest serving member of Gunnedah Shire Council, being first elected in 1995.

Gwen promotes the importance of education in her community and believes by getting all students, parents and community engaged is the key to students' success in education.



### **Anne Dennis Member**

Anne Dennis is a Gamilaraay woman living in Walgett and a strong advocate for Aboriginal people in North West NSW. Anne understands the importance of a quality education needed in today's society which inspired her to become a teacher.

Anne has been involved in the NSW AECG Inc. for many years as an active member of her Local and Regional AECG and was formally recognised when given the status of Life Membership within the organisation.

Anne is involved in other Aboriginal organisations which allows her to advocate on behalf of her people ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the community are heard.



### **Leigh Ridgeway Member**

Leigh is a member of the Worimi tribal group from Port Stephens who speak the Gattang language.

Leigh is currently the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer with the NSW Department of Education and Communities in the Hunter/Central Coast Region.

Since becoming involved in the NSW AECG Inc. Leigh has realised the importance of educating not only Aboriginal people but non Aboriginal people as well.

"Since being involved with Aboriginal education I have made it my business to educate the wider community in my area. Aboriginal education is everybody's business; let's make a difference to give children a better start to life".



# THE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT

The NSW AECG Inc. Secretariat plays a vital role in supporting all levels of our organisation.

The Secretariat has grown in 2011, from six to sixteen staff members. There is eleven staff based at the Stanmore office and five in satellite locations across NSW.

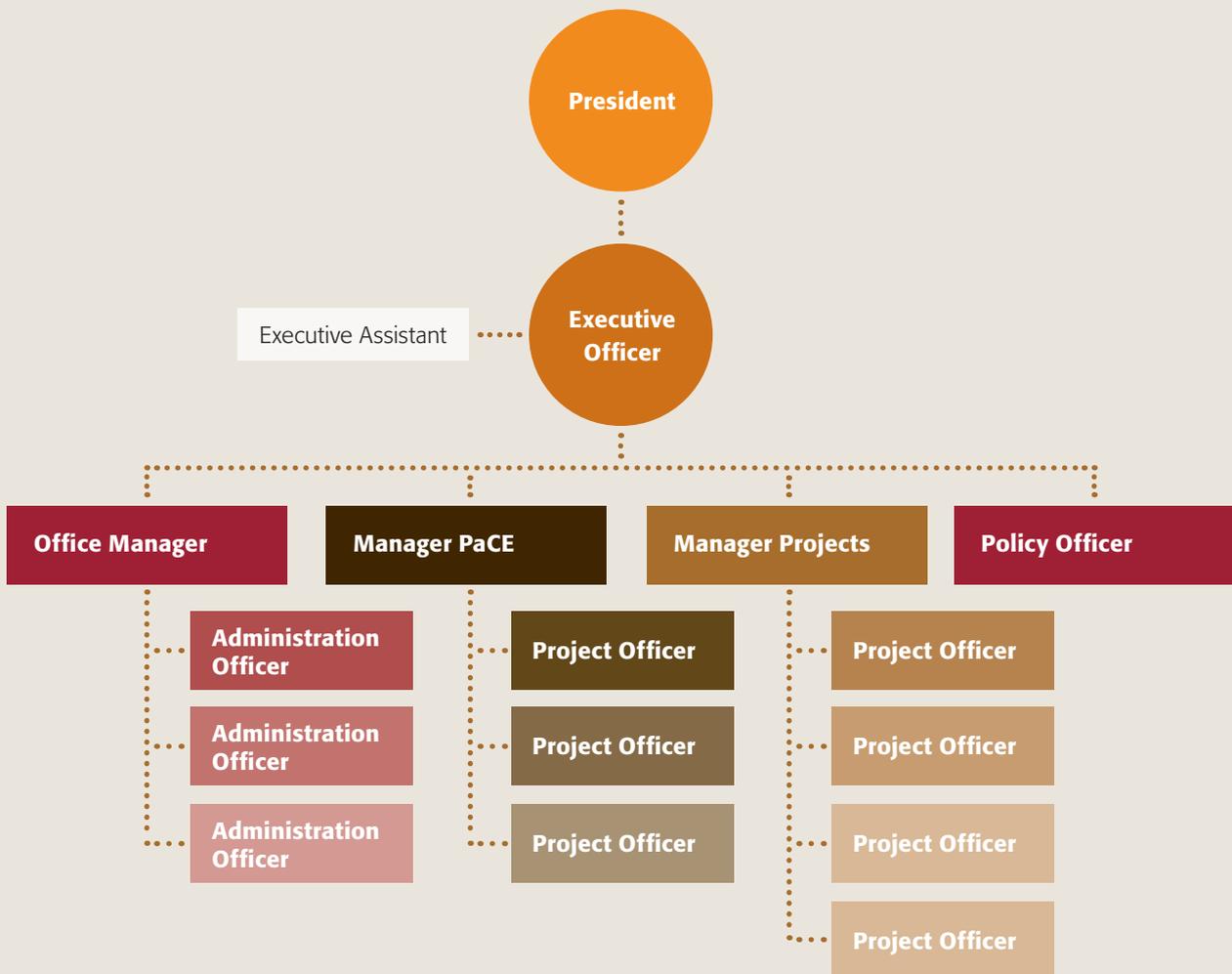
The NSW AECG Inc. has grown over the past couple of years and the Secretariat has expanded and endeavours to provide a professional service to the NSW AECG Inc. network.



THE NSW AECG INC. HAS GROWN OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS AND THE SECRETARIAT HAS EXPANDED AND ENDEAVOURS TO PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE NSW AECG INC. NETWORK.



NSW AECG Inc. Secretariat Structure 2011







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NSW AECG INC.  
MAJOR PROJECTS



## CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

Connecting to Country was delivered in a number of locations throughout 2011 with feedback from evaluations indicating the program to be one of the best professional learning opportunities many participants had experienced.

Connecting to Country is comprised of five days of professional development. The first three days is a Aboriginal community cultural awareness teaching program, *Being Culturally Aware, Becoming Culturally Inclusive: A pathway to Cultural Competence* facilitated by members of the Regional or Local AECG. A separate two day professional learning experience at a later date is facilitated by the NSW Department of Education and Communities Aboriginal Education and Training Directorate.

The Aboriginal community cultural awareness teaching program, *Being Culturally Aware, Becoming Culturally Inclusive: A pathway to Cultural Competence* provides a unique opportunity to engage with Aboriginal Australians at the local community level. Over the three days, participants learn about local Aboriginal culture, history and social experience and gain valuable access to Aboriginal parents, Aboriginal community members, representatives of Aboriginal community organisations and key Aboriginal education personnel.

During 2011, Central Coast Regional AECG, Hunter Regional AECG, Manning Regional AECG, Coffs Harbour Local AECG, Nambucca Local AECG, Macleay Valley Local AECG, and Hastings Local AECG facilitated the Connecting to Country Program which significantly bettered the depth of participant's insights into the myriad of social, cultural, historic, economic and political issues that continue to affect and concern Aboriginal peoples and communities.

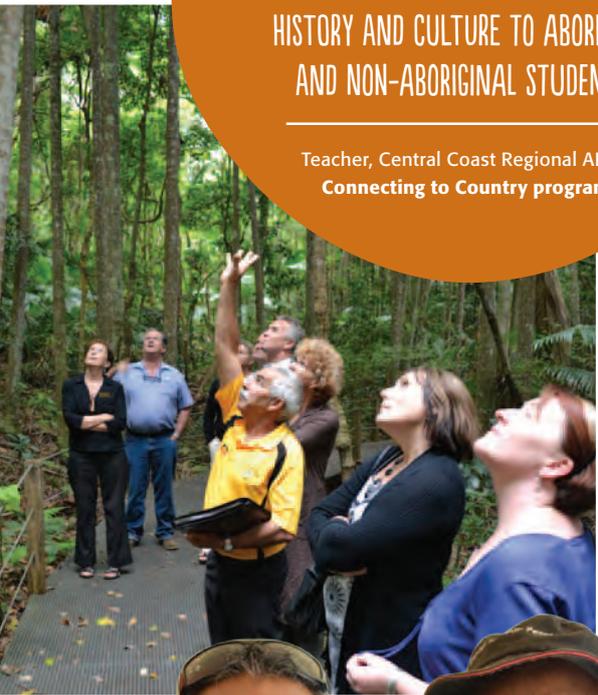
THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CULTURAL AWARENESS TEACHING PROGRAM PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS AT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY LEVEL.





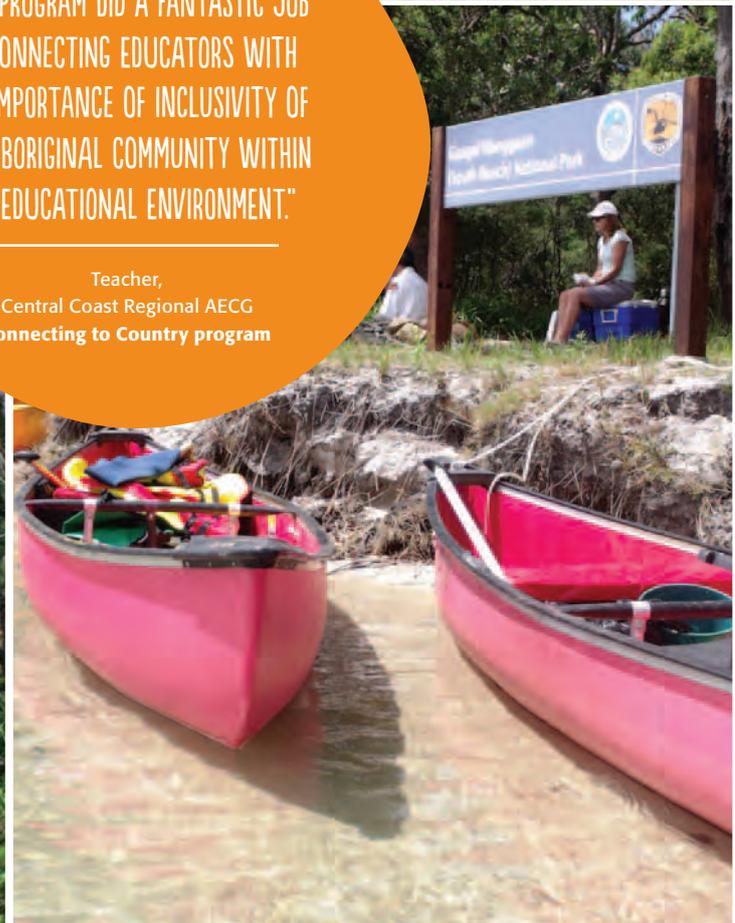
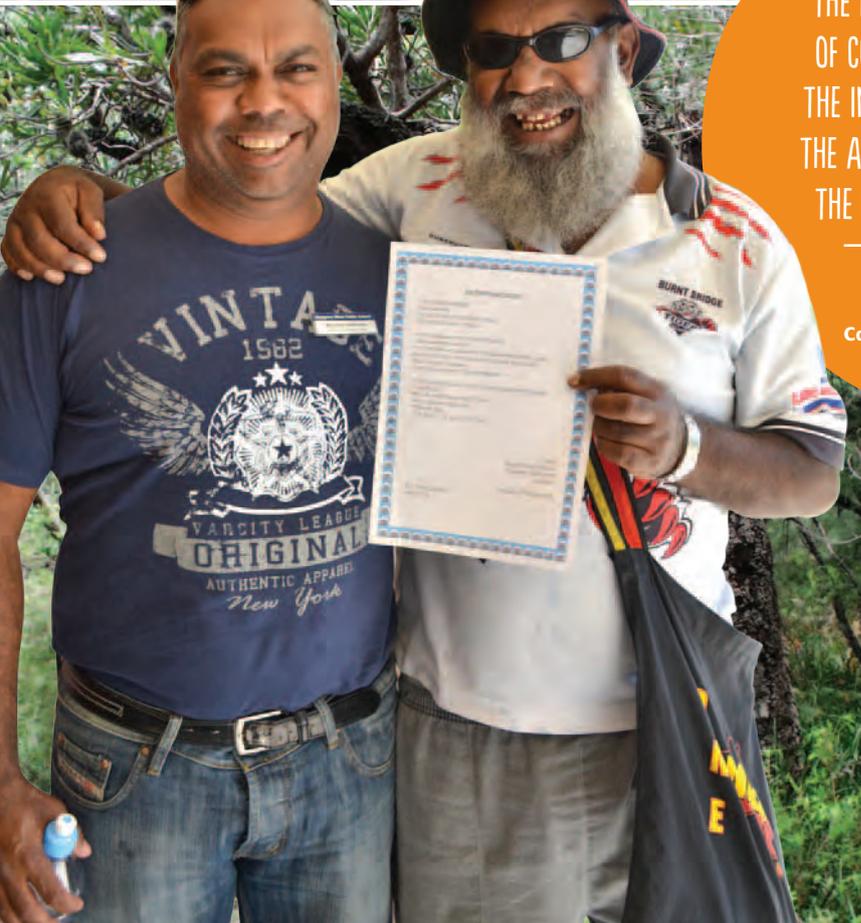
"I HAVE DEVELOPED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN REINFORCING THE IMPORTANCE OF ABORIGINAL HISTORY AND CULTURE TO ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL STUDENTS"

Teacher, Central Coast Regional AECG  
Connecting to Country program



"THE PROGRAM DID A FANTASTIC JOB OF CONNECTING EDUCATORS WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVITY OF THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT."

Teacher,  
Central Coast Regional AECG  
Connecting to Country program





"MY KNOWLEDGE GAINED HAS COME FROM VALID SOURCES; THEREFORE I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT IN TEACHING THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE GAINED. I ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE WHO CAN IMPROVE MY CLASSROOM TEACHING AND PROGRAMMING."

Teacher, Hastings Local AECG  
Connecting to Country program





## CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2011, the NSW AECG Inc. successfully tendered for a three year project to establish the NSW Centre for Aboriginal Languages Coordination and Development (CALCD) and began to make plans as to the functions and governance of the CALCD.

The NSW AECG Inc. plans to nurture and support the CALCD to:

- › Develop Regional and Local Aboriginal language networks;
- › Coordinate Aboriginal projects and services;
- › Advocate on behalf of the networks it represents;
- › Seek financial sustainability opportunities, and
- › Lead the development of policies and resources to support the revitalisation, reclamation and maintenance of Aboriginal languages throughout NSW

It is foreseen that the CALCD will establish networks to enable the best possible coordination and communication for Aboriginal communities when revitalising, reclaiming and maintaining an Aboriginal language.

The CALCD will be governed by an all Aboriginal Board of Directors who (Board) will be representatives of each of the eight Aboriginal Languages Regions across NSW. The CALCD Board functions will include:

- › Oversee the development of a community-based Aboriginal language network;
- › Seek funding for the CALCD and other major projects;
- › Provide policy advice and direction regarding Aboriginal languages in NSW;
- › Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal languages and culture, and
- › Direct Aboriginal languages projects and services.

In 2011, an interim Board of Directors were appointed. They are:



### Cindy Berwick

Cindy grew up in the inner city of Sydney and is a Ngunnawal woman descending from the Bell family in Yass.

As President of the NSW AECG Inc. Cindy is more than familiar with the communities needs and struggles when self determining our own future.

Cindy believes that Aboriginal people must lead the revitalisation, reclamation and maintenance of Aboriginal languages in NSW.

*"We, Aboriginal people, must excel in the western way to survive in the world we live in, but it cant be at the expense of our own cultural identity".*



### Karen Flick

Karen is a Gamilaraay woman from the North West NSW. Karen currently lives in Walgett where she actively teaches the Gamilaraay language at Walgett Community College. Karen has been actively involved in the revitalisation, reclamation and maintenance of the Gamilaraay/ Yuwaalaraay Language for many years. Karen is a primary school teacher and currently holds a Masters in Indigenous Languages Education from the University of Sydney.

Karen was instrumental in the organisation and promotion of the Regional Aboriginal Languages Forum held in Gunnedah in 2010, which attracted many Aboriginal Communities in the New England area.

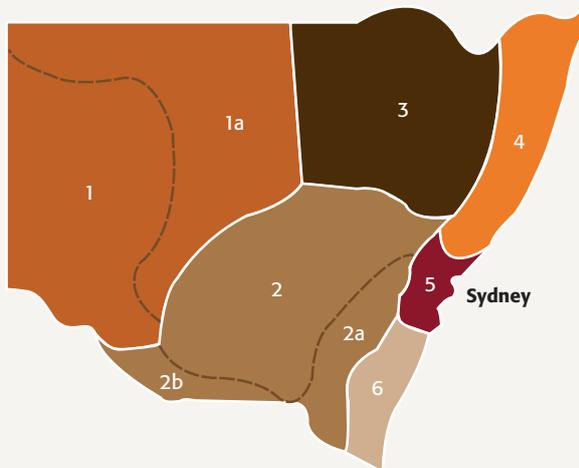


### Murray Butcher

Murray comes from Wilcannia a small country town on the Darling River NSW. A proud Paakintji man, Murray has taught Paakintji for 15 years and actively teaches the language taught to him by his grandmother while growing up in Wilcannia along the 'paaka' (Darling River).

Murray is well respected among the Paakintji community and assists many communities in their journey in revitalising their traditional language. Murray is currently developing a dictionary that would be accompanied with an audio CD to further assist Paakintji language programs.

Murray will provide much needed advice on overcoming some of the challenges some remote Aboriginal communities face.

**Proposed CALCD Regional Aboriginal Languages Network**

**VISION STATEMENT**  
**"TO EMPOWER & ENGAGE**  
**ABORIGINAL PEOPLE FOR THE PROTECTION**  
**AND PROMOTION OF ABORIGINAL**  
**LANGUAGES & CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE"**

**Patricia Ellis**

Patricia is a proud Brinja-Yuin woman from the South Coast of NSW. She has been actively involved not only in the revitalisation of the Dhurga language but the promotion of Aboriginal culture on the NSW South Coast

Patricia is on leave from the Office Environment and Heritage (NPWS) where she has worked for over a decade and is currently the Aboriginal Coordinator of the Aboriginal Education and Training Unit at the Moruya Campus Illawarra Institute of TAFE NSW.

Patricia is currently enrolled in the Masters of Indigenous Language and Education at Sydney University. She will bring much experience and knowledge of promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage to the CALCD board.

**Stan Grant Snr**

Uncle Stan is a well respected Wiradjuri Elder from the Riverina area of NSW. Uncle Stan has been working tirelessly for over 25 years working with Wiradjuri people to ensure that their communities are able to access their language for generations to come.

Uncle Stan has been instrumental in developing the Wiradjuri dictionary and teaching resources and lead the development of the Wiradjuri Language Certificate 1,2 and 3 TAFE Course which has been completed by 200 Wiradjuri people.

Uncle Stan will provide much needed advice to the CALCD especially around resource development and working closely with Elders.

**Ray Kelly**

Ray is a Danghatti man from the mid north coast of NSW. Ray grew up in Armidale and has strong cultural affiliation with the Macleay Valley. Ray has lived in the Newcastle area for the past 25 years where he has tirelessly promoted Aboriginal culture.

Ray had a strong cultural upbringing which underpins what he does today in particular with his current studies 'Dreaming the Keepra' which looks at recorded language material and interpret them through a culturally understanding manner.

"The consistencies in the language tapes from speakers themselves have provided me with evidence to reinterpret the tapes" Ray explains.

With his cultural knowledge and understanding Ray provides quality advice as a CALCD Board of Director.

**Ken Walker**

Uncle Ken is a respected Elder of the Gumbaynggirr people from the North Coast of NSW. Uncle Ken is the Chairperson of Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Centre based in Nambucca where he resides. Uncle Ken has been involved in the reclamation, revitalisation and maintenance of the Gumbaynggirr language for over 25years and has overseen the evolution of Muurrbay as a leading institute.

Uncle Ken's extensive experience in reclaiming his own language through Muurrbay allows the CALCD access to this knowledge to assist other communities in their language journey.





## TAFE CERTIFICATE III FOR AECG MEMBERS

2011 saw the delivery of the TAFE accredited Certificate III in Employment, Education and Training (9073) for AECG Members in the North West 2 AECG Region and Campbelltown Local AECG.

The NSW AECG Inc. and TAFE (Sydney Institute, Petersham College) have worked together to design a course that meet the identified training needs of members. The course aims to help members work effectively in their role in the AECG, in schools and in their own communities.

The program is unique. It takes a generic TAFE Certificate course as its base and fully customises it with AECG scenarios. The program that resulted focuses on the following areas:

- › Knowledge of core documents, such as the AECG Rules of the Association and some DEC policy and strategy documents
- › Communication skills including listening skills;
- › Assertiveness and managing conflict;
- › Conducting and managing meetings;
- › Public speaking skills;
- › Critical thinking skills;
- › Some writing skills; and
- › Strategies to address racist behaviour

The program is in its third year and has had over 30 members graduate with another 20 enrolled during 2011. The retention rate for the course so far is over 80%.

During 2011, it was awarded the TAFE NSW Gili Award (the Director's Meritorious Service Award) and Sydney Institute of TAFE Yulang Unit Community Award.

THE PROGRAM IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR AND HAS HAD OVER 30 MEMBERS GRADUATE WITH ANOTHER 20 ENROLLED DURING 2011. THE RETENTION RATE FOR THE COURSE SO FAR IS OVER 80%.

DURING 2011, IT WAS AWARDED THE TAFE NSW GILI AWARD AND SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF TAFE YULANG UNIT COMMUNITY AWARD.



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NSW AECG INC.  
MAJOR EVENTS



## NSW AECG INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Thursday 10th March the NSW AECG Inc. held its Annual General Meeting followed by its Annual Conference held from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th March 2011 at Brighton-Le-Sands in Sydney.

The Annual General Meeting chose the NSW AECG Inc. Association Management Committee and the Annual Conference saw three days of workshops and presentation based around the Annual Conference theme of "Change is within our Reach: Let's take the next step". The NSW AECG Inc. Life Members addressed the theme of the conference providing delegates with an insight into how they can make a real difference in Aboriginal education not only at a local and regional level but at the national level by continuing to engage local students, families and communities in education and training.

Taking part in these workshops were over 100 participants including regional delegates, NSW AECG Inc. Life Members as well as local members from around NSW.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Youth Address by the Coomealla Junior AECG. They gave a thoughtful presentation on matters regarding Aboriginal education and certainly gave confidence to those who were in attendance of the very proud and confident emerging leaders we have in our communities.

Over the course of the conference we also heard from the Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth MP, the Director General of Education and Training, Michael Coutts-Trotter along with the NSW Board of Studies, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Catholic education and the Jimmy Little Foundation. Kate Baxter, Institute Director of TAFE Western, gave a candid insight into TAFE Western's training provision for Aboriginal people along with changes in direction they hope to implement and Charles Sturt University presented delegates with some of their research.

Delegates at the conference also had a robust discussion on Aboriginality and Identity, discussed the changes to the Rules of the Association and the NSW AECG Inc. Strategic Plan and passed a number of recommendations and actions. The conference dinner was another highlight with many people being recognized for their achievements in Aboriginal education and training. Members of the Riverina and the Central Coast Regions were presented with their TAFE certificates, the top students in the HSC were recognised along with teachers of Aboriginal studies.

And, of course, the conference dinner would not have been complete without the announcement of the newest Life Members of the NSW AECG Inc., Aunty Pat Doolan and Nita Roberts received that honor in 2011 for their tireless work in bettering the educational outcomes of Aboriginal peoples.



## STATE MEETINGS

The 1st State Meeting in 2011 was held on Awabakal Country in Lake Macquarie and hosted by the Minimbah Local AECG. The 2nd State Meeting was held on Yaegl Country in Yamba and hosted by the Lower Clarence Local AECG.

State Meetings are attended by Regional Representatives from all of the 19 Regions across NSW where reports are tabled that look at the achievements and any issues or barriers that impede Aboriginal people accessing quality education and training.

The State meetings are an opportunity to exchange information from all the levels of the organisation and direct the advocacy role that the NSW AECG Inc. works tirelessly on.

Business directly related to the functioning of the NSW AECG Inc. and policy directions are discussed including NSW AECG Inc. priorities, Training and Development, Changes to the Rules of the Association, Aboriginality and Identity and Sub-Committees are formed to undertake such tasks as Junior AECG's and the policies and procedures when handling complaints.

Other items for discussion during 2011 included the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan, the Australian Curriculum, the Centre for Aboriginal Language Coordination and Development and the Connecting to Country Program.

The State Meetings provide a unique opportunity for Aboriginal communities to have input into policy and decision making.

## REGIONAL PRESIDENTS WORKSHOP

The annual Regional Presidents Workshop was held again in 2011 at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs where Regional Presidents or another member of the Regional Association Management Committee attended. This gives regions the opportunity to network and share ideas and practices amongst themselves as well as discussion on the challenges that they face.

Other items for discussion included the role of the Regional President and the role of the Secretariat within the NSW AECG Inc. Connecting to Country program, Aboriginal Languages, NSW AECG Inc. TAFE Course and Aboriginality and Identity.

Regional needs were also discussed along with financial processes. The two day workshop is a great opportunity to discuss and plan the strategic direction and work of the NSW AECG Inc. in the coming year. It also creates another opportunity for communication to flow between all levels of the NSW AECG Inc.



## 2011 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

**Darwin, Northern Territory 17-20 October 2011**

Members of the NSW AECG Inc. had an opportunity to be a delegate to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference (NATSIEC) held in Darwin this year.

The conference theme – Strong Start, Bright Future – emphasised the importance of focusing on educational opportunities and outcomes from birth to employment. Education is life giving: self-management and self-empowerment can be achieved through education.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014 was the centre-piece for discussion, with the conference structures according to the six identified priority areas that evidence shows will have the most impact on closing the gap.

- › Readiness for school
- › Engagement and Connections
- › Attendance
- › Literacy and Numeracy
- › Leadership, Quality Teaching and Workforce Development
- › Pathways to real Post-School Options

The NSW AECG Inc. 25 member strong delegation not only gained valuable information, networked and heard what other States and Territories are doing in Aboriginal education and training, but also presented six workshops. These included Connecting to Country, Aboriginality and Identity, Building Community capacity to engage in education and training and Aboriginal Languages.

At the completion of the conference it was announced that New South Wales would hold the next one in 2013 and the NSW AECG Inc. accepted the official hand over with Aunty Pat Doolan and Aunty Sara Morgan, two Life Members of the NSW AECG Inc. doing the honours.

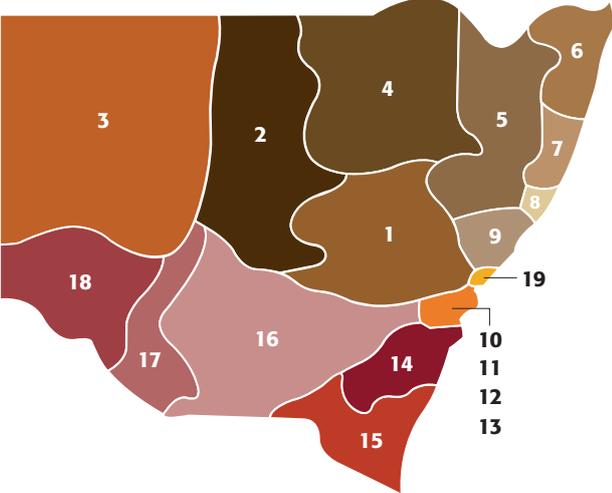
We look forward to working with the NSW Department of Education and Communities and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in making the 2013 conference a success.

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NSW AECG INC.  
AROUND THE REGIONS

**NSW AECG Inc. Around the Region**



AECG Regions	
1	Western 1
2	Western 2
3	Western 3
4	North West 1
5	North West 2
6	Upper North Coast
7	Lower North Coast
8	Manning
9	Hunter
10	Met. East
11	Met. North
12	Met. West
13	Met. South West
14	Upper South Coast
15	Lower South Coast
16	Riverina 1
17	Riverina 2
18	Riverina 3
19	Central Coast

**AROUND THE REGIONS**

The information promoted in 'Around the Regions' has been compiled from the Regional Reports submitted at the State Meetings in 2011.

**1 Western 1** - Western 1 Region currently has eleven (11) functioning Local AECG's in its area being Bathurst, Cowra, Dubbo, Forbes, Gilgandra, Mudgee, Narromine, Orange, Parkes, Trangie and Tullamore. Western 1 has five (5) Junior AECG's currently operating around the region.



The Western 1 Region is represented on a number of committees including the TAFE Reference Group and the DEC Regional Management Reference Group.

Western 1 continues to support Local AECG's through Merit Selection Panel Training, Junior AECG mentoring and the understanding of AECG involvement in school based programs including Norta Norta Program.

**2 Western 2** - There are seven (7) functioning Local AECG's in the Western 2 Regional AECG area – Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Enngonia, Nyngan, Warren and Weilmoringle. Western 2 are currently representing the region on a number of committees including the Western Institute TAFE Aboriginal Community Reference Group. Western 2 continue to advocate and support Local AECG's in their area by working closely with both government and non government agencies.



**3 Western 3** - Western 3 Regional AECG has three functioning Local AECG's in their area being Broken Hill, Menindee and Wilcannia. The Locals are continuing to strengthen and are becoming an avenue for Aboriginal communities' advocacy.



**5 North West 2** - North West 2 Regional AECG has nine (9) functioning Local AECG's in their area and participates and supports many committees and programs including the Regional Equity Committee and the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program, Deadly Days and Dare to Lead. The Region has held Merit Selection Training, Sista Speak Program and the NSW AECG Inc. Certificate III training for members of the Armidale, Inverell, Manilla, Tenterfield and Tingha Local AECG's.





## MAJOR EVENTS

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**Upper North Coast** - The Upper North Coast has 9 Local AECG's within their region. A Partnership Agreements was signed behalf of the Regional AECG, DEC Region and TAFE Institute and Local AECG's are encouraged to work towards a Partnership Agreement with their local schools and TAFE campuses.

The Upper North Coast continues to strongly advocate for Aboriginal communities through a number of avenues including representation on committees, workshops and individual meetings.

The Upper North Coast has successfully run a Parent and Community Engagement Program (PaCE) "Building Stronger Goori Communities" and held a planning workshop for Phase 2 of the project.



7

**Lower North Coast** - There are four Local AECG's within the Lower North Coast Regional AECG – Coffs Harbour, Nambucca, Macleay Valley and Hastings.

The region signed the Partnership Agreement with the Department of Education and Communities and TAFE this year. Local AECG's has also signed Partnership Agreements with their local schools.

All Local AECG's conducted the Connecting to Country Program which was highly successful and Merit Selection Training was also held for members in 2011.



8

**Manning** - The Manning has three (3) functioning Local AECG's – Forster, Gloucester and Taree. The Manning continues to promote Aboriginal Education and Training and advocate on behalf of Aboriginal communities in the Manning area.

The Manning Region organised and ran the Connecting to Country Program which was very successful and attracted media attention with an article in the local paper.



9

**Hunter** - The Hunter Region has nine (9) functioning Local AECG's – Itji Marru, Korreil Wonnai, Maitland, Mankillikan, Minimnah, Moolimbinah, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Youyoong. The Hunter Region also has twelve (12) functioning Junior AECG's.

The Hunter Regional AECG implemented a Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) funded Community Development Program that involved training Local AECG Management Committee members in the delivery of workshops that give local members the knowledge of policies and procedures of educational institutes.

The region also participates in a number of committees and panels including 100% Knights Program, Regional Equity Committee, Regional Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee and Healthy Shools, Healthy Futures.



10

**Met East** - There are three (3) Local AECG's within the Met East Regional AECG area – Eastern Suburbs, Inner City and Southern Suburbs.

The Region continues to advocate for the betterment of Aboriginal communities through a number of committees including Regional Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee.



11

**Met North** - Met North has two (2) functioning Local AECG's in the Met North area and continues to advocate on communities behalf on a number of committees and panels including Northern Sydney Institute Advisory Council, Gamarada Peak Working Group and the Regional Aboriginal Education Planning Group.

Met North continues to promote the importance of education and training for Aboriginal people through positive engagement.



12

**Met West** - There are five (5) functioning Local AECG's and two (2) Junior AECG's in the Met West Regional area. The Region has been active in providing advice in a variety of committees and forums including Western Sydney Area Health, PCYC, and the University of Western Sydney. Four members also attended the Dare to Lead conference in Canberra during 2011.



13

**Mil-Pra (Met South West)** - Mil-Pra has four (4) Local AECG's – Bankstown, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Wollondilly. Mil-Pra has actively represented on several committees and panels including the Regional Planning Group, Interagency and Merit Selection Panels for DEC, TAFE and other Aboriginal organisations.

Mil-Pra continue to provide advice to students, Aboriginal community members and assisted both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal students.



14

**Upper South Coast** - There are 9 functioning Local AECG's within the Upper South Coast Region being Bays and Basin, Goulburn, Jerringa, North Illawarra, Nowra, Queanbeyan, Southern Highlands, Wandarma and Wollongong.

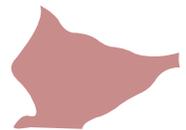
The Region worked with many stakeholders and participated on various committees contributing to advice and direction relating to Aboriginal Education and Training in the region. This includes Shoalhaven Family and Child Centre Reference Group, National Partnership School Committees, No Gap – No Excuse Program and the University of Wollongong just to name a few.

The Illawarra South East Aboriginal Education Awards were supported and the Region was represented on the selection panel for the awards. Partnership Agreements were signed by the AECG and DEC at the Region and Local levels.



16

**Riverina 1** - Riverina 1 has 9 functioning Local AECG's – Albury, Cootamundra, Griffith, Harden/Murrumbidgee, Leeton, Narrandera, Tumut, Wagga Wagga and Young. Riverina 1 and its locals have been very active this year participating in many programs and committees including Riverina Leadership Camp, School Based Traineeship Forums, Sister Speak and Proud and Deadly Awards.



17

**Riverina 2** - The most recent re-established Regional AECG, Riverina 2 has three (3) functioning Local AECG – Deniliquin, Hay and Moama. Riverina 2 has been actively involved in education and training matters throughout 2011 being representing the AECG on many committees.

Riverina 2 was also very proactive in supporting the Proud and Deadly awards held in Hay.



18

**Riverina 3** - The Riverina 3 Regional AECG has two (2) functioning Local AECG's – Coomealla and Balranald.

There is a Junior AECG operating from Coomealla Local AECG who have been active in community events including this year's NAIDOC Celebration.

The Region has also signed the DEC/AECG Partnership Agreement with local schools.



19

**Central Coast** - There are four (4) functioning Local AECG's and one (1) Junior AECG in the Central Coast Region.

The region has been actively involved in many committees and forums including Regional Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, Asset and Management Committee, School in Partnership Committees and Sista and Bro Speak just to name a few.

The Region continues to promote the importance of Aboriginal Education throughout the Aboriginal and wider communities. The Central Coast Region facilitated the Connecting to Country Program as well as having a major role in the Young Black and Ready 4 School Program, Aboriginal Organisations Workshop and Catholic Education AEW Conference.





5

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NSW AECG INC.  
PARTNERSHIPS AND  
ADVOCACY



# COALITION OF ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS

The Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) is a formal alliance of peak Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in NSW.

On 27 May 2011, the State’s peak Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, including the NSW AECG Inc., signed a memorandum of understanding , formalising a joint commitment to work together to facilitate better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and communities in NSW through the provision of a strong, coordinated and united voice on issues faced by Aboriginal peoples.

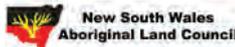
In particular, the CAPO jointly committed to:

“...supporting and fostering the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal people in New South Wales through the provision of demonstrated leadership on key issues which affect Aboriginal people in New South Wales. The coalition, through mutual respect and trust, will work collaboratively to ensure stronger involvement in the development of Government policy.”

The members of CAPO are:

- › Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Centre of NSW,
- › Link-Up NSW,
- › NSW Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat,
- › NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group,
- › NSW Aboriginal Land Council, and
- › NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Services.

The members of CAPO represent local and regional networks of community-controlled organisations across the State, each with its own significant membership base and the NSW AECG Inc. is pleased to be a partner.





## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE BODIES

Indigenous Education Consultative Bodies (IECB's) or Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (AECG's) are active in every State and Territory in Australia. The principal function of IECB's is community representation and advocacy.

IECB's provide an effective means through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can be directly involved in the design, development and implementation of education policies and programs.

During 2011, IECB's met regularly in different States and Territories to discuss issues that affect us all nationally and advise the Australian Government on its policies and practices. Items for discussion this year have included the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014, the Australian Curriculum and a myriad of other programs the Australian government administers.

The NSW AECG Inc. was also elected to be the coordinating chair for the national body and coordinates submissions on behalf of the group and communication with Canberra.

The NSW AECG Inc. is honoured to be part of this important and significant group that gives a voice to Aboriginal people and their communities at a national level.

IECB'S PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS THROUGH WHICH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES CAN BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

## MINISTERIAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (MCEECDYA)

The NSW AECG Inc. is a member of the MCEECDYA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group and represents other Indigenous Education Consultative Bodies (IECB's) from around Australia.

The working group provides a forum for members to share information and to raise and deliberate upon matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. Specifically, it is responsible for:

- › Implementing the actions contained in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010–2014;
- › Reporting, as required, on progress in implementing the above mentioned actions;
- › Providing governance for projects aligned to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010–2014;
- › Consulting, as required, with stakeholders;
- › Providing policy advice on matters; and
- › Drafting, with the assistance of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, annual reports on Indigenous education and on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010–2014.

## FIRST PEOPLES EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

The NSW AECG Inc. has become a member of the newly established First Peoples Education Advisory Group set up by Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett MP.

The First Peoples Education Advisory Group is a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education experts who will advise the Australian Government on the best ways to close the gap in educational outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and other students.

The group includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives from academia, school education, early childhood education and community organisations.

Members of the First Peoples Education Advisory Group have been appointed for a three year term.

## NSW AECG INC. / DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The NSW AECG Inc. signed a Partnership Agreement with the Department of Education and Communities entitled Together We Are Together We Can Together We Will was signed in 2010 by the President of the NSW AECG Inc. Ms Cindy Berwick and the Director General of Education and Training Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter. The Partnership Agreement between the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. (NSW AECG) is based on the principles of respect, commitment, collaboration and accountability in order to improve educational and training outcomes for Aboriginal learners.

This Partnership Agreement is a statement of intent on how we plan to work together across the agreed priority areas which are:

- › Leadership and Accountability
- › Ongoing learning and Professional Development
- › Relationships and Pathways
- › Quality Teaching and Training

During 2011, the Partnership Agreement continued to be signed off at the regional level with Regional Directors and TAFE NSW Institute Directors as well as at a local Level with school Principals.

This Partnership Agreement is significant as it gives a voice to Aboriginal people to be involved in the decision making process in determining their educational needs.

THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT GIVES A VOICE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN DETERMINING THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

## ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

The NSW AECG Inc. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Roads and Maritime Services who are offering scholarships to Aboriginal secondary students who will complete year 11 or year 12 and are interested in a career in Civil Engineering, Environmental Science or Mechanical Engineering or a related field.

The NSW AECG Inc. auspices and administers the scholarship funds to the students on behalf of the Roads and Maritime Services. The funds are used to purchase educational tools and services such as a new computer, text books, tutoring or any other approved items to support the students learning. Work Experience is also part of the scholarship program.

As well as administering the funds, the NSW AECG Inc. provide program information, identify items and services to be acquired and introduce regional AECG representatives to recipients of the scholarship and their families and provides ongoing support if required.

During 2011, six (6) students were supported with this scholarship. We look forward to our ongoing partnership with the Roads and Maritime Services.





## ABORIGINAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The NSW AECG Inc. continues its partnership with the Aboriginal Studies Association by continuing its role as the vice president and providing administrative support.

The Aboriginal Studies Association (ASA) was relaunched in 2009 and attempts to:

- › Promote the teaching of Aboriginal Studies and perspectives at all levels of education;
- › Foster partnerships with local Aboriginal communities and appropriate stakeholders to support the development of Aboriginal Studies at all levels;
- › Increase teacher and community awareness of and involvement in Aboriginal Studies at all levels of education;
- › Develop and support ongoing curriculum and pedagogical practices that contribute to the improvement of Aboriginal student outcomes; and
- › Provide opportunities to engage in professional and personal learning and dialogue through the ongoing development of networks and learning communities.

In 2011, the ASA continued to work on advocating for Aboriginal Studies and providing quality professional learning support for all teachers. The 2011 conference was supported by the NSW AECG Inc. and celebrated the 20 years since the first Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies HSC exam.

The conference was designed to support the professional learning needs of all educators interested in Aboriginal Studies, Aboriginal content in their curriculum areas and engaging with Aboriginal students, their families and communities.

The ASA is also working with the NSW AECG Inc., running teacher network meetings following our Connecting to Country component. This provides additional support to teachers in incorporating a local Aboriginal perspective into their teaching and learning program.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with ASA and supporting teachers to teach Aboriginal studies.

THE CONFERENCE WAS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NEEDS OF ALL EDUCATORS INTERESTED IN ABORIGINAL STUDIES, ABORIGINAL CONTENT IN THEIR CURRICULUM AREAS AND ENGAGING WITH ABORIGINAL STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.



## ABORIGINALITY AND IDENTITY

The subject of Aboriginality and Identity has always been a 'hot' topic for Aboriginal people and in 2009 the NSW AECG Inc. became increasingly concerned.

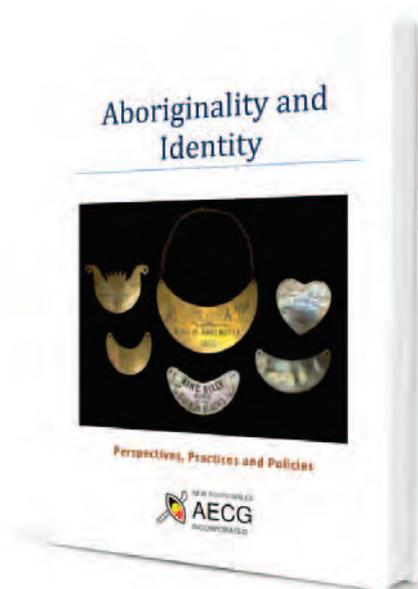
Of particular concern to our organisation were allegations of possible fraudulent claims to Aboriginality by some applicants for the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) targeted teacher training scholarships. Concerns were also evident relating to the authenticity of some applicants for teaching positions and/or for promotions and transfers within the teaching service administered by the DEC.

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM), members decided to commission a project to gauge Aboriginal community views on Aboriginality and Identity and to receive recommendations relating to how the NSW AECG Inc. could more effectively respond to the complex issue and challenge of Aboriginality and Identity.

To assist with this process, the NSW AECG Inc. decided to contract Bob Morgan Consulting to conduct a project of issues associated with the current definition of Aboriginal Identity and the current procedures by which individuals can claim or confirm their status as Aboriginal people.

Consultation forums were held in several locations throughout NSW and well attended by the Aboriginal community.

Bob Morgan Consultancy presented the final report, which includes fourteen (14) recommendations, to the NSW AECG Inc. State Committee in October 2011.



AT THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM), MEMBERS DECIDED TO COMMISSION A PROJECT TO GAUGE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY VIEWS ON ABORIGINALITY AND IDENTITY.

# 6

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NSW AECG INC.  
**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the 2011 audited financial statements for NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated (NSW AECG Inc.).

Under the stewardship of the governing team the organisation continues to improve its financial position.

The key financial enhancements since 2008 are:

- › 2011 marks the fourth year in succession that that NSW AECG Inc. has presented an unqualified financial report. This achievement has been obtained through two unrelated independent audit firms over the same period. Prior to the governing teams since 2008, the NSW AECG Inc. financial accounts were consistently qualified;
- › Fourth successive year that the NSW AECG Inc. has presented an operating surplus. Prior to the governing teams since 2008, the NSW AECG Inc.'s accounts consistently produced operating deficits slowly eroding the capital base of the organisation;
- › The cash position of the NSW AECG Inc. has increased from \$575,245 at 31 December 2007 to \$1,644,702 at 31 December 2011;
- › Revenue has increased from \$598,105 in 2007 to \$1,173,149 in 2011.

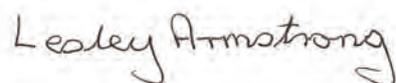
The NSW AECG Inc. recognises our leadership role in assisting our stakeholders in directly undertaking projects. To this end, we have also alleviated their administrative financial burden through the au-spicing and acquittal of grants on behalf of our stakeholders.

Examples of our au-spicing assistance over the last 3 years are:

- › Upper North Coast PACE Project;
- › Lower North Coast PACE Project;
- › CALCD Language Centre;
- › Dubbo Local - Charles Sturt University Project;
- › Coomealla Local - High School Language Project.
- › Aboriginal Studies Association;

As the outgoing Treasurer I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members for their support. I would especially like to acknowledge Cindy Berwick and all in her team at the NSW AECG Inc. Secretariat. The last four years many organisations have experienced funding cuts or funding withdrawals during the difficult economic environment. The NSW AECG Inc. financial health and prosperity has grown year after year despite the economic environment, and this is partly attributable to the financial governance at State Office.

Yours sincerely;



**Lesley Armstrong Treasurer**



## COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 December 2011.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report were:

#### Current Members

President – Cindy Berwick (app 10/3/11)  
Vice President – Tom Flanders (app 10/3/11)  
Secretary – Susan Matthews (app 10/3/11)  
Treasurer – Lesley Armstrong (app 10/3/11)  
Member – Leigh Ridgeway (app 10/3/11)  
Member – Michele Grove (app 10/3/11)  
Member – Stella Lamb (app 10/3/11)  
Member – Gwen Griffen (app 10/3/11)  
Member – Anne Dennis (app 10/3/11)

#### Ceased Members

Megan Davis (ceased 10/3/11)  
Christine Foresheaw (ceased 10/3/11)  
Martha Kelly (ceased 10/3/11)  
Lesley Armstrong (ceased 17/10/11)  
Helen Pussell (ceased 10/3/11)

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to provide advice on Aboriginal education, training and policy to Government departments, educational institutions and members.

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### OPERATING RESULT

The surplus from ordinary activities amounted to \$42,973 (2010 surplus: \$1,064).

### EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Members of the Committee of the association, to affect significantly the operations of the association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association, in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

**Cindy Berwick President**

Dated: 16 February 2012

# INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Note	2011	2010
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Government grants		1,045,433	950,871
Interest received		54,767	32,275
Registration fees and sales		18,283	40,099
Other revenue		54,666	18,043
		1,173,149	1,041,288
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accounting		24,000	36,000
Administration fees		38,162	-
Advertising		5,650	1,610
Awards	2	-	1,859
Auditor fees		9,250	9,250
Bank fees		1,028	1,010
Cabcharge / taxi		7,032	1,014
Catering expenses		43,372	30,290
Cleaning		5,617	5,308
Consultancy		43,368	26,329
Conference/meeting costs		82,695	159,322
Computer expenses		2,465	865
Costs of goods sold		10,668	14,703
Courier costs		-	287
Cultural immersion workshops		27,893	25,935
Depreciation		21,134	12,209
Electricity		1,150	1,158
Employees amenities		13,713	-
Floral tributes, gifts and donations		2,365	4,121
Function expenses		3,486	3,241
Gas		60	66
General expenses		4,599	3,863
Insurance		7,437	7,745
Legal costs		4,000	3,610
Motor vehicle costs		42,520	15,927
Petty cash		800	731
Postage		1,034	22
<b>Expenditure to be carried forward to next page</b>		<b>403,498</b>	<b>366,475</b>

**INCOME STATEMENT** CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

Note	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>Expenditure brought forward from prior page</b>	<b>403,498</b>	<b>366,475</b>
Printing and stationary	20,427	17,101
Promotional expenses	8,608	4,959
Regional representative operational expenses	20,132	12,454
Rent	12,498	15,375
Repairs and maintenance	470	1,692
Salaries and wages	463,621	429,437
Security costs	412	409
Training and welfare	3,037	2,661
Superannuation	40,756	37,074
Sustenance	38,228	26,086
Telephone	16,947	10,595
Traveling	101,542	115,906
	1,130,176	1,040,224
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from ordinary activities</b>	<b>42,973</b>	<b>1,064</b>
<b>Retained Surplus at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>587,363</b>	<b>586,299</b>
<b>Retained Surplus at the end of the year</b>	<b>630,336</b>	<b>587,363</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Note	2011	2010
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,644,702	870,771
Trade and other receivables	4	53,166	94,774
Inventory	5	10,801	15,351
Other assets	6	2,010	23,733
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,710,679</b>	<b>1,004,629</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	7	144,178	73,663
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>144,178</b>	<b>73,663</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,854,857</b>	<b>1,078,292</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	214,261	132,422
Grants in advance	9	985,323	342,920
Employee Entitlements	10	16,630	12,029
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,216,214</b>	<b>487,371</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee Entitlements	10	8,307	3,558
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>8,307</b>	<b>3,558</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,224,521</b>	<b>490,929</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>630,336</b>	<b>587,363</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		630,336	587,363
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>630,336</b>	<b>587,363</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of NSW 2010 and the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2011 and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Reporting Period

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

### a. Income Tax

The association is registered as an income tax exempt charitable institution, accordingly no provision for income tax is necessary nor is one represented in these financial accounts.

### b. Plant and Equipment

Fixed assets are carried at cost, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The useful life in year used for property, plant and equipment are 2 to 13 years.

### c. Employee Entitlements

Provision for employee benefits in the form of Long Service Leave and Annual Leave have been made for the estimated accrued entitlements, including on-costs, of all employees on the basis of their terms of employment.

In the case of Long Service Leave, the accrual has been measured by reference to periods of service and current salary rates as it is considered that this results in an amount not materially different to that achieved by discounting estimated future cash flows.

### d. Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal operating activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the normal course of the Associations operations.

The continuing operations of the Association and the ability to pay its debts in the normal course is dependent upon the continued support of the funding bodies for grant income.

### e. Subsequent Events

There has not arisen since the end of the financial year any matter or circumstance that has or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### f. Government Grants

Government grants are brought to account on a cash basis, except for specific project grants that are unused at year end. In this case unused specific project grants at year end are treated as "Deferred Grants" for matching against expenditure in future periods.

### g. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments and bank overdrafts.

### h. Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

### i. Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

### j. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues and expenses are recognised net of the amount of any applicable GST. Assets and provisions are likewise recognised net of the amount of any applicable GST. Trade creditors in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

### k. Superannuation

Superannuation contributions are made by the Association to an employee's superannuation fund and are charged as an expense when incurred.

### l. Office of the Board of Studies

Operational expense invoices of the Association were submitted to the Office of the Board of Studies during the year for direct payment to suppliers. This practice was consistently applied in prior years.

The income and the expenditure for 2011 have been understated by \$???,??? (2010: \$598,217) less any GST that may be applicable. This amount represents the operational expenses paid directly by the Office of the Board of Studies and have been excluded from these 2011 financial statements.

### m. Inventory

Stock is carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## NOTE 2: AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

Auditing or reviewing the financial report  
Other services

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Auditing or reviewing the financial report	9,250	9,250
Other services	-	-
	9,250	9,250

## NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

General Bank Account  
General Investment Account  
Corporate Investment Account  
Security Deposit Account  
Met East Regional Account – Held in Trust  
North West 2 Account – Held in Trust  
Cash on hand

General Bank Account	119,031	22,595
General Investment Account	46,865	44,790
Corporate Investment Account	1,410,575	738,912
Security Deposit Account	10,224	10,224
Met East Regional Account – Held in Trust	55,938	53,378
North West 2 Account – Held in Trust	469	372
Cash on hand	1,600	500
	1,644,702	870,771

## NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Grants Receivable  
Other Receivables

Grants Receivable	45,000	84,905
Other Receivables	8,166	9,869
	53,166	94,774

## NOTE 5: INVENTORY

Stock on hand - at cost

Stock on hand - at cost	10,801	15,351
	10,801	15,351

## NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS

Prepayments  
Fuel Cards

Prepayments	2,010	22,733
Fuel Cards	-	1,000
	2,010	23,733

## NOTE 7: PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Office Furniture and Equipment  
Motor Vehicles  
Less accumulated depreciation

Office Furniture and Equipment	111,948	94,672
Motor Vehicles	118,527	44,154
Less accumulated depreciation	(86,297)	(65,163)
	144,178	73,663



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

### NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Trade and Sundry Creditors	36,470	21,359
Met East Regional Account – Held in Trust	55,938	53,378
North West 2 Account – Held in Trust	469	372
ASA Account – Held in Trust	38,193	19,332
Lower Nth Coast PACE – Held in Trust	20,808	-
Upper Nth Coast PACE – Held in Trust	-	10,691
Dubbo Local CSU – Held in Trust	16,500	-
Unearned Income	17,452	-
Superannuation Accrual	14,329	9,232
Goods and Services Tax - net	(266)	9,039
PAYG Withholding Accrual	14,368	9,019
	214,261	132,422

### NOTE 9: GRANTS IN ADVANCE

Aboriginal Languages – Dept. of Human Services	74,393	6,588
Parenting Workshops – DEEWR	404,285	131,988
Cultural Immersion – NSW Dept. Education & Training	413,566	200,524
Scholarships – NSW Roads & Traffic Authority	5,612	3,820
CTC Research – NSW Dept. Education & Training	87,467	-
	985,323	342,920

### NOTE 10: EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

CURRENT		
Provision for Annual Leave	16,630	12,029
	16,630	12,029
NON CURRENT		
Provision for Long Service Leave	8,307	3,558
	8,307	3,558

### NOTE 11: LEASING COMMITMENTS

#### a. Operating Lease Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

- not later than 1 year	121,287	103,257
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	17,270	152,867
- later than 5 years	-	-
	138,557	256,124

### NOTE 12: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no known contingent liabilities enforceable, or likely to become enforceable, within the next 12 months which may substantially affect the association's ability to meet its obligations as and when they fall due.

## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report incorporating the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated as at 31 December 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



**Cindy Berwick President**

16 February 2012



# INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



Vanessa Patricio  
Principal

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Sydney NSW 2000

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
NSW ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP INCORPORATED  
A.B.N. 29 271 072 930**

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2011 and the Detailed Income Statement for the year then ended, Notes to the Financial Statements comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and Statement by Members of the Committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Committee of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committees' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Associations preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
NSW ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP INCORPORATED  
A.B.N. 29 271 072 930**

**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated as of 31 December 2011 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010*.

*Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Mosaic Audit & Consulting**



**Vanessa Patricio**

Principal  
Registered Company Auditor # 333315

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012  
Sydney, NSW



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