

# NSW ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP INC.

2012 Annual Report



NEW SOUTH WALES  
**AECG**  
INCORPORATED

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



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012 HAS SEEN THE NSW AECG CONTINUE TO GROW. THE ADVOCACY ROLE THAT THE NSW AECG UNDERTAKES IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT IN ENSURING GAINS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE AFFORDED TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

I am proud of the role we play in making sure the Aboriginal voice is heard.

The Connecting to Country program continued to be rolled out across NSW and evaluations indicate that it is one of the best professional learning activities in Aboriginal education.

We have seen increased enrolments of members and community people undertaking the NSW AECG Certificate III course in Employment, Education and Training.

Our AECG network continued to grow with new Local AECG's established, old ones re-established, bringing the total to 126 Local AECG's across NSW. This can only have a positive impact on programs and policies as the Local and Regional AECG's provide strategic direction and advice on all matters in relation to Aboriginal education and training.

2012 also saw the Connected Communities strategy announced which has the potential to change an education system and how it delivers education and training to Aboriginal people.

Our partnerships continued to grow across all education sectors and with other stakeholders that are involved in education and training. It made for a very busy year attending various meetings both at local, State and National levels.

I'm proud of the NSW AECG's achievements and the influence we are able to exert to make positive change in education and training for Aboriginal people and their communities. Of course, it is all not possible without the dedicated volunteer members that work tirelessly at the Local, Regional and State level together. It is truly a unique organisation.

This report only captures a snapshot of what has been achieved during 2012 as it would be an encyclopaedia if we were to include everything.

**Cindy Berwick**  
President NSW AECG Inc.

# SECTION ONE

## 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.

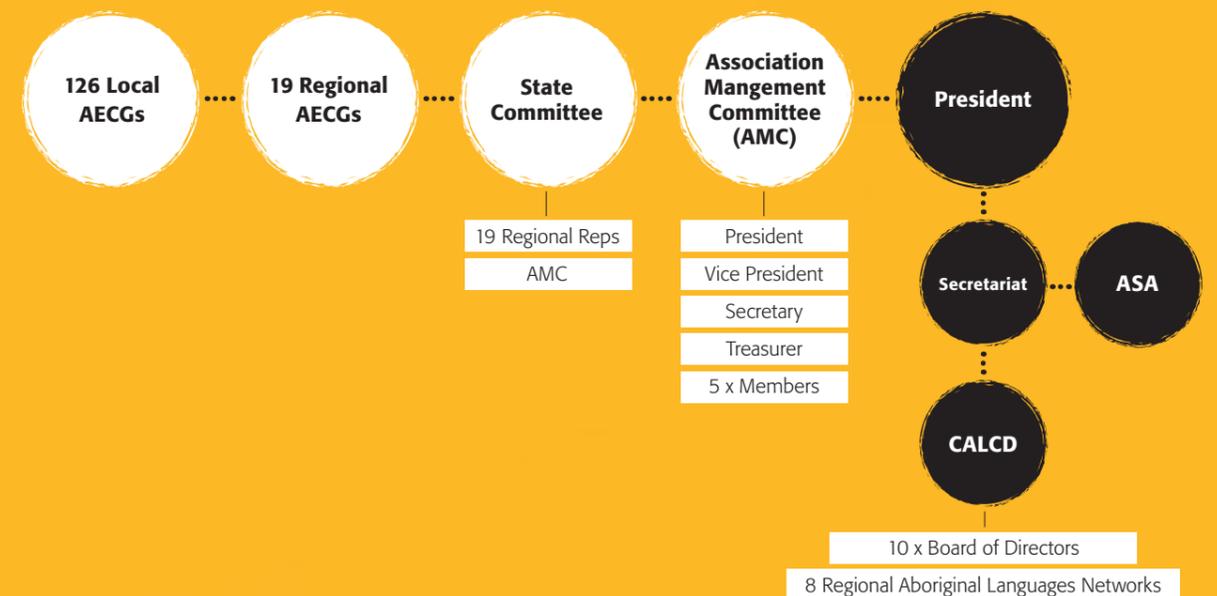
OUR STRONG  
MEMBER BASE  
IS KEY TO THE  
ORGANISATION  
BEING THE PEAK  
ADVISORY BODY

### 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 Federal 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 2012

### **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.

### **Ken Weatherall Vice President**

I am a proud descendent of the Murrawi nation. I currently live in the Hunter region on Awabakal Country.

I have gained a real passion for Aboriginal education and have been privileged to be involved through a range of different roles at different levels through my involvement in the NSW AECG and Department of Education and Communities in the Hunter region.

My experience in the NSW AECG Inc. began when I joined as an active member of Muloobinbah Local AECG in 2007. I have since held many positions such as Local and Regional President (2009 – 2010), State Vice President (2012) and State Field Officer (2010 – 2011). As a result, I have been required to represent the AECG at many different functions and ceremonies of cultural and educational importance in many schools and communities throughout NSW.

In my role as the State Vice President I have enjoyed the experience of representing the NSW AECG in many different aspects for 2012.

### **Michele Grove Treasurer**

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.

### **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.

Susan has been involved with the NSW AECG 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."

### **Jenny Ronning Member**

Jenny Ronning is a Wiradjuri woman living at Gorokan on the Central Coast. She is very active and has been involved with the AECG since 1992 in State, Regional and Local level. She is active with the Local Aboriginal Land Council (Darkinjung Board Member), is on several advisory committees in her local area and is an Aboriginal Education Officer (Kooloora Aboriginal Designated Preschool) and is currently relieving at a High School. Jenny has always advocated for our children to ensure they get supported in their journey through life. Jenny believes if our Aboriginal children get supported and the tools to get an education, they will have the power to be successful in life.

### **Bobbi Murray Member**

Bobbi Murray is a Baakantji woman from Wilcannia but now living on the NSW Central Coast. Bobbi well known and respected in her home town and new community and in many areas of Law and Justice in NSW.

Bobbi believes that education is the key to all change and we as Aboriginal people need to be front and stand together if we want to make a difference.

Bobbi Works for Centacare Broken Bay as a Aboriginal Community Project Worker and works closely with the Catholic Schools Office.

### **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 also involved in other Aboriginal organisation 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".

### **Eddie Pitt Member**

Eddie is currently employed as the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer with the Department of Education & Communities, in the New England Region.

He has been doing this job now for 12 years and likes the travel, meeting parents, principals and teachers across the New England region.

He said it makes me feel good when our Aboriginal Students are achieving great results, especially when there is a lot of negativity about our students.

"I love telling people that we now have over 700 Aboriginal Teachers and 150 Aboriginal Doctors and another 300 training to be doctors".

Eddie loves being on the Association Management Committee as it gives him the opportunity to work with the Education Department at the highest Community level.

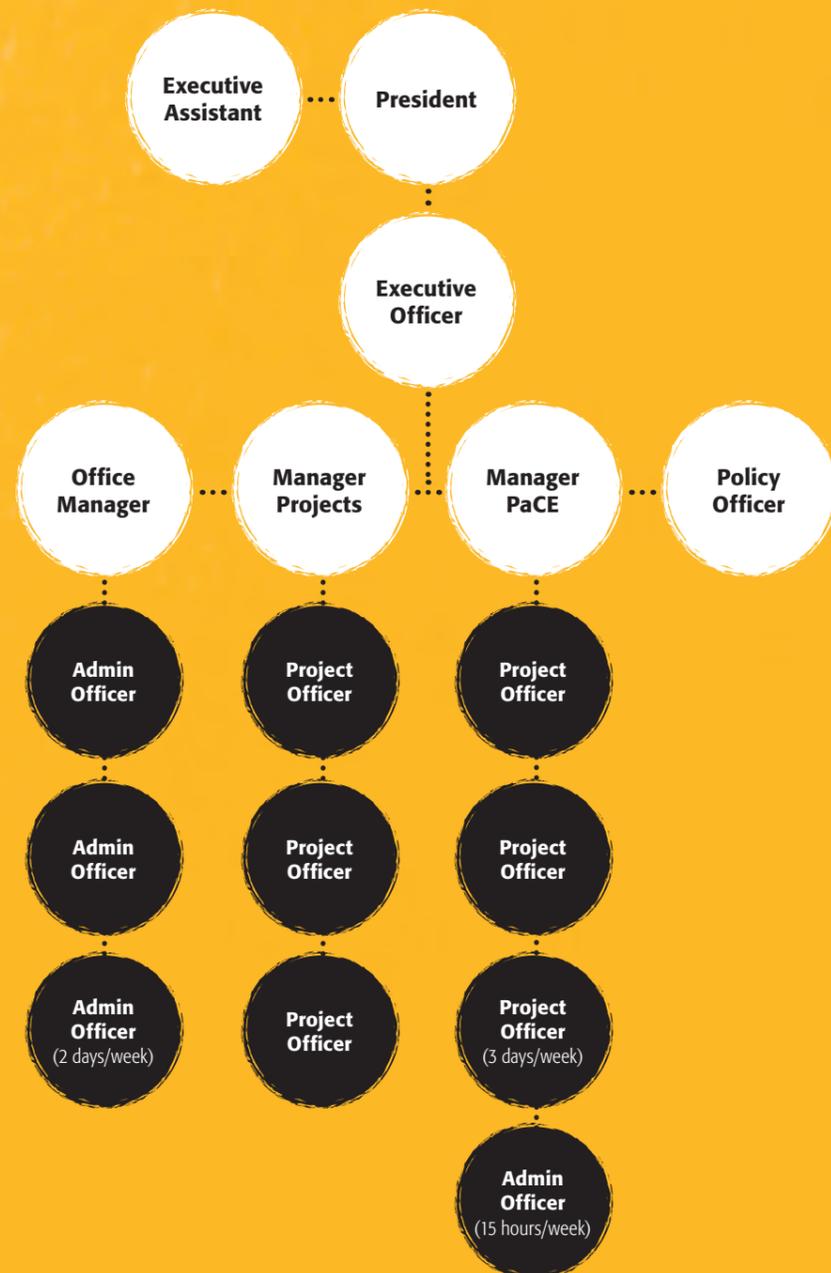
## The Role and Structure of the Secretariat

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

The Secretariat was maintained in 2012 with sixteen staff members. There is eleven staff based at the Stanmore office and five in satellite locations across NSW.

The NSW AECG Inc supports all levels of the organisation and endeavours to provide a professional service to the NSW AECG Inc network.

## NSW AECG Inc. Secretariat Structure 2012



# SECTION TWO

## NSW AECG INC PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



### Connecting to Country

The Connecting to Country program is an intensive professional development program for Principals and teachers consisting of two components:

An intensive 3-day cultural immersion program facilitated by Local and/or Regional AECG's: and

A follow up 2 –day workshop delivered by the Department of Education and Communities which aims to develop the practical implications

In 2012 Local and/or Regional AECG's facilitated programs to 102 schools and included staff from both government and Independent schools.

Participants in the program reported:

- › Enhanced understanding of Aboriginal culture, communities and history
- › Confidence in engaging with Aboriginal students, parents and communities
- › Enhancing awareness of and respect for the role and skills of Aboriginal support staff
- › Developing more comfortable relationships with Aboriginal parents and community
- › Facilitating access to Aboriginal community organisations and agency networks
- › Ability to implement appropriate curriculum and pedagogical practices
- › New approaches to curriculum
- › New approaches to pedagogy

The Connecting to Country program has been refunded and will continue to be rolled out in 2013. Many participants in the program acknowledged is was one of the best professional learning activities they had experienced.

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IN THE PROGRAM  
ACKNOWLEDGED IS  
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BEST PROFESSIONAL  
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HAD EXPERIENCED.



## Aboriginal Languages

The NSW AECG Inc. continues to support the revitalisation, reclamation and maintenance of Aboriginal Languages in NSW through the establishment of the Centre for Aboriginal Languages Coordination and Development (CALCD).

The CALCD is guided by a Board that provides strategic direction and advice that reflects the Aboriginal community viewpoint. The Board has met on numerous occasions throughout 2012.

During 2012 Aboriginal community members with an interest in Aboriginal languages were invited to attend Regional Aboriginal Community Language Forums which provided critical information relating to the establishment of the CALCD and the creation of a unified and coordinated NSW Aboriginal Languages network.

The forums also allowed participants the opportunity to provide input into this new era ensuring the NSW AECG Inc. is on the right track.

Regional Forums were held in the following locations:

- › Nambucca – North Coast
- › Gunnedah – Gamilaraay/Yurralaraay
- › Mollmook – South Coast
- › Condobolin – Wiradjuri
- › Broken Hill – Far Western
- › Newcastle – Sydney/Newcastle
- › Liverpool – Sydney/Newcastle

### Aboriginal Language Nests

The NSW Government established a Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs to refocus actions to better support efforts in 'Closing the Gap'. A number of consultations were held during 2012 across NSW where our people expressed the need for Aboriginal people to learn their language and culture.

The creation of Aboriginal Language Nests will be piloted in 2013 to allow Aboriginal communities to self-determine their own needs and aspirations, work more collaboratively and not in isolation ensuring relevant information and resources are shared appropriately. The NSW AECG started in the latter half of 2012 facilitating community meetings to discuss how language nests would operate and gather community thoughts on the concept.

The NSW AECG Inc. will continue working closely with the Department of Education and Communities (the Department the Office of Aboriginal Affairs sits under) to ensure the voice of our people are heard through the development and implementation process.

### Language Program in Schools

During 2012 the NSW AECG Inc. negotiated partnering with the Aboriginal Education and Training Directorate in coordinating and supporting Aboriginal Language programs in NSW Public Schools. The NSW AECG Inc. has worked closely with the AETD and schools, who currently deliver an Aboriginal Language Program in their school in 2012, to ensure Aboriginal learners are accessing programs that allow them to build strong cultural foundations while non-Aboriginal children learn about our unique and ancient culture.

The NSW AECG will be responsible for the distributing of school language funding in 2013.

## Connected Communities

The year 2012 saw the NSW Government announce what has been expressed as a "once in a lifetime" new approach to address the education disadvantage in 15 communities across NSW.

The NSW AECG Inc. previously advocated for change, highlighting "our people deserve better" when it came to the educational delivery our students and young people were receiving.

The Connected Communities Strategy, which was previously known as the Red Zone Strategy, underwent a broad consultation process with key stakeholders and research was undertaken about extended service schools and place-based approaches to service delivery and community development.

Connected Communities positions a school as a community hub, with a key focus on delivering a quality education while reinforcing our cultural identity through language nests and cultural streams.

The Local AECG will chair a reference group that will provide direction and community advice in partnership with the leadership of the school, ensuring the effective delivery of services and supporting children and young people from birth through school into further training, study and employment.

The Connected Communities strategy will be co-designed at a local level ensuring the community's visions and aspirations are met while supporting and building the communities capacity through the Local and Regional AECG's.

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### TAFE

The NSW AECG in partnership with Sydney Institute of TAFE offered the TAFE accredited Certificate III in Employment, education and Training to two Regions and one Local in 2012. These were Hunter (which included Secretariat Staff), North West 1 Regional AECG and Wilcannia Local AECG. The course is delivered in four face-to-face blocks; each block is two full days, 9am to 5 pm. Hunter Region had 10 participants complete, North West 1 had 11 participants complete. Wilcannia will complete the course in 2013.

The course aims to help members work effectively in their role in the AECG, in schools and in their own communities. It focuses on the following areas:

- › Knowledge of core documents, such as the AECG Association Rules and some DET 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
- › Cultural awareness
- › Strategies to address racist behaviour.

This was a great achievement by all participants. Congratulations to all.

### PaCE

The NSW AECG has coordinated the PaCE program with an emphasis on parent and community involvement in regards to the Connected Communities Strategy, working in collaboration with the Department of Education and Communities and Aboriginal Communities in Moree, Boggabilla, Toomelah and Wilcannia. The PaCE Project Officers have been conducting and facilitating meetings and workshops, a particular focus in these workshops was around languages and strengthening Local AECGs, building on community capacity to influence what they would like in their communities.

Some initiatives that the PaCE program has supported have been the Certificate III Employment, Education and Training TAFE course – participants from Armidale, Manilla, Tingha, Tenterfield attended and graduated in the North West 2 Regional AECG. The PaCE program also supported participants in Moree, Toomelah, Narrabri and Boggabilla in the North West 1 Regional AECG.

In late 2012 participants in Wilcannia began their certificate course. The Men's Group in Tenterfield was re-established and has been a success and a positive future for the Men in Tenterfield. PaCE has many achievements and continues to promote the AECG and their initiatives.

THE NSW AECG HAS COORDINATED THE PaCE PROGRAM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN REGARDS TO THE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES STRATEGY.

### Youth Address

Nyoka McLeay and Shaun Laurie from the Lower Clarence Junior AECG gave the Youth address at the 2012 NSW AECG Annual Conference.

Shaun spoke about wanting to see more recognition of days of significance like sorry Day and the Referendum and more recognition of Local Elders and their achievements.

Nyoka spoke about how proud she was to be Aboriginal and the need for more Aboriginal teachers and role models and the need for the local Aboriginal community to be involved in schools. This promoted student pride in identity.

They provided inspiring and thought provoking comments.

### Youth Forum

A youth forum was conducted at the 2012 Annual Conference where a number of Junior AECGs and youth came together to discuss ways forward in meeting education needs and aspirations of Aboriginal students, where they discussed pathways into employment and other post school options.

The Youth Forum was very informative and enabled the youth of the AECG to have a direct input into policy.



# SECTION THREE

## NSW AECG INC KEY MEETINGS



### AGM and Annual Conference

The NSW AECG Inc. held its 2012 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th March 2012 at Rydges Parramatta, hosted by the Met West RAECG area.

The 22nd Annual General Meeting saw John Lester as the Returning Officer, May-Lou Buck scrutineer and Darren Bond, Principal EO QIECC as the independent scrutineer. The following AMC positions were up for nominations and were declared by the AECG delegates in attendance:

- › President: Cindy Berwick
- › Vice President: Ken Weatherall
- › Treasurer: Michele Grove
- › Secretary: Susan Matthews
- › Five ordinary members:
  - › Anne Dennis
  - › Bobbi Murray
  - › Eddie Pitt
  - › Jenny Ronning
  - › Leigh Ridgeway

The Annual Conference commenced on Friday 9th March 2012 that featured the President's address, Life Members address from Aunty Bertha Kapeen and a Youth address presentation from the Maclean Junior AECG. Delegates and participants also heard from key stakeholders such as Department Education and Communities (DEC), Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Catholic Education to name a few.

A youth forum was also held on Friday 9th March and Junior AECG members. Youth across NSW participated in it.

The NSW AECG Inc. thanks the delegates for their attendance and to the Met West RAECG for providing local knowledge ensuring the conference ran according to local protocols.

On Friday evening delegates and participants were provided the opportunity to explore the Sydney Harbour at night with the Tribal Warrior which was a highlight.

The Annual Conference dinner was hosted by the Manning RAECG delegation, where we honoured the Life Members in attendance, congratulated the Highest Achieving HSC Aboriginal Studies students, NSW DEC Aboriginal Studies Teacher award and the members who completed the NSW AECG Inc. Certificate III in Education, Employment and Training.

Before 'The Simpsons' could rock the night away the NSW AECG Inc. paid homage to a member who has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure the AECG is well established and functional in the Central Coast area, Lesley Armstrong became the newest Life Member of the NSW AECG Inc. and accepted her award by a pre-recorded speech in her absent.

THE NSW AECG INC. THANKS THE DELEGATES FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE AND TO THE MET WEST RAECG FOR PROVIDING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ENSURING THE CONFERENCE RAN ACCORDING TO LOCAL PROTOCOLS.



### State Meeting

The 1st State Meeting in 2012 was held on Guringai Country in Brookvale, Sydney and hosted by the Guringai Local AECG. The 2nd State Meeting was held on Kamiliroi Country in Tamworth and hosted by the Tamworth Local AECG.

The NSW AECG Inc. State Committee members attend the State Meeting. The State Committee's membership consist of the nineteen (19) Regional Representatives and nine (9) Association Management Committee members.

State Meetings provide opportunities for each Region to exchange information, from all levels of the NSW AECG Inc., which provides critical direction for the advocacy work the organisation tirelessly undertakes.

Each Region formally provides a report that highlights achievements made to date and any issues or concerns that impact on Aboriginal people accessing quality education and training.

Items directly related to the functioning of the NSW AECG Inc. including policy positions are discussed including Changes to the Rules of the Association, Training and Development, Recommendations of the Aboriginal and Identity Report and the Australian Curriculum.

Other items discussed included Aboriginal Languages, Connected Communities Strategy, Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs and the Connecting to Country Program.

State Meetings are an effective method for Aboriginal communities to have direct input into policy and decision making at the highest level.

### Regional Presidents Workshop

Regional Presidents came together in February 2012 at Yarra Bay House in La Perouse for their annual workshop. Topics discussed included Connecting to Country, Local and Regional reporting, regional needs and communication, training and development, finance, Aboriginal languages as well as discussion on our Constitution.

This workshop provides an invaluable opportunity for Regional Presidents to network with each other, share information and have input into the strategic direction of the NSW AECG.

It allows the NSW AECG to provide advice on policies and programs that directly or indirectly affect Aboriginal people from the grass roots of the community. It is fast becoming one of the highlights of the year.

STATE MEETINGS ARE AN EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TO HAVE DIRECT INPUT INTO POLICY AND DECISION MAKING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

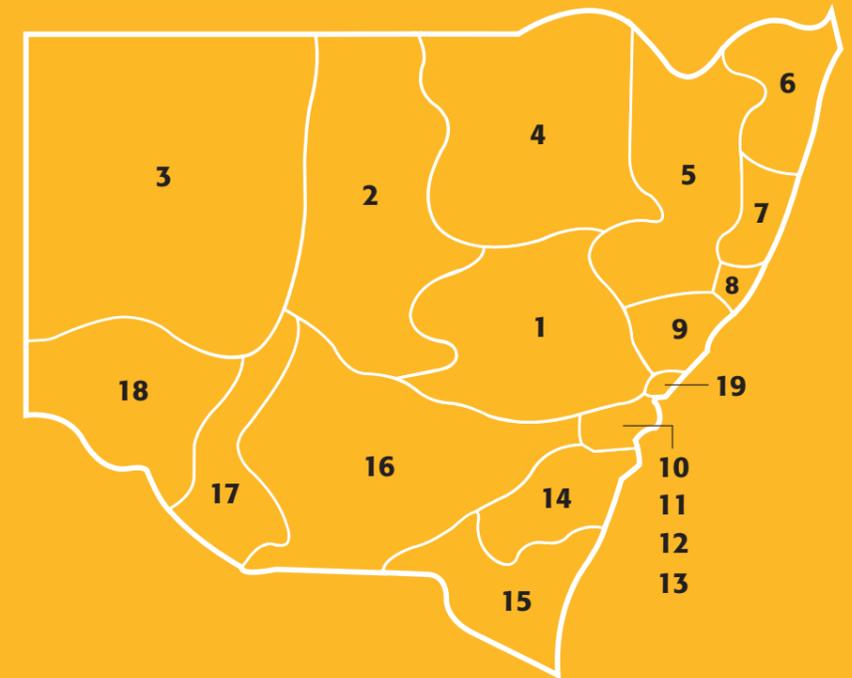


# SECTION FOUR

## NSW AECG INC AROUND THE REGIONS

### 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



### 1 WESTERN 1

Western One is the biggest of the 19 AECG regions with 16 functioning locals. The area in which our locals are situated extends to Lithgow and down to Gilgandra. We have 420 members within Western One and seven Junior AECG's across the region. Local AECG's work closely with their local schools to improve the learning outcomes for our students and uphold the Partnership Agreement. At a Regional level executives meet regular with the Department of Education and Communities and TAFE staff to look at best practise to achieve these outcomes.

### 2 WESTERN 2

We actively encourage and promote the AECG.

In 2012 local AECG's from Nyngan, Cobar and Warren enthusiastically completed the Connecting to Country program to Department of Education and Communities staff. The delivery of this valuable program gave insight to staff with connectedness, cultural competency and awareness, in order to deliver and build better educational standards for Aboriginal Students. The process reinforced the traumatic emotional abuse generated upon Aboriginal people and parents. We hope the Empathy of the participants continues to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal students, parents and the wider community.

There were many emotions felt as we walked back in time to the ill treatment of Aboriginal peoples.

Three of our schools were chosen to be 'Connected Communities' this means big changes for Aboriginal Education.

Successful students highlights include:

- › Aboriginal female school captain
- › Two participants selected for Learn Earn Legends
- › Wudagurragarra Award recipients

We look forward to a very productive 2013

### 3 WESTERN 3

Our Region this year has participated in Merit Selection Panels and undertook merit selection panel training.

We have attended and assisted in planning and delivery of Staff Development Day on Aboriginal Education in schools in the region and conducted cultural awareness for Broken Hill Schools on Term 3 Staff Development Day. We have also attended Department of Education and Communities Regional Principals meetings to discuss processes for consultation and future directions of the Partnership Agreement in the Region.

## 4 NORTH WEST 1

North West 1 has actively participated in numerous meetings including Interagency, Men's Group, Community Working Parties, Aboriginal Medical Service and attended Centre for Aboriginal Languages Coordination and Development Language forums. We currently have two (2) Junior AECG's operating around the region being Wee Waa and Moree

Members of the North West 1 Regional AECG also completed Certificate III in Employment, Education and Training for AECG members.

A number of communities in North West 1 successfully delivered the Connecting to Country program.

## 5 NORTH WEST 2

North West 2 has nine (9) functioning LAECG's – Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Ashford, Inverell, Tingha, Armidale, Walcha, Manilla and Tamworth. North West 2 RAECG and LAECG's are actively involved in developing, participating and presenting the Connecting to Country Program in the region. The Regional AECG continues to support initiatives and programs in the region which also includes Connecting Communities, Healthy Schools – Healthy Futures Program, and had involvement in Community events. North West 2 RAECG and LAECG's members have attended and represented NW2 on numerous committees and reference groups that have enabled our Regional AECG to participate actively in the decisions in regards to Aboriginal Education in our region.

## 6 UPPER NORTH COAST

This year the Connecting to Country program was successfully conducted in a number of Local AECG's. This was well received by both community and schools involved. We participated in a number of committees and forums including the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs consultation Forum, the Region's Aboriginal Education Policy Liaison Committee, NSW AECG/CALCD Language forums and merit selections panels.

Our region developed a protocol and process document for engaging with our Local AECG's and implemented a PaCE programs called 'Building Stronger Goori Communities'.

## 7 LOWER NORTH COAST

In the Region, we saw the Coffs Harbour Local AECG and Macleay Valley Local AECG sign off the Partnership Agreement and the Hastings Local AECG conducted workshops for Junior AECG establishment. Universities have been attending Local AECG meetings and providing information regarding courses available.

The Lower North Coast Region successfully conducted the Connecting to Country program. The region also participated in the North Coast Regional Aboriginal Awards as well as sitting on many merit selection panels.

## 8 MANNING

Manning Regional AECG is a member of the Aboriginal Children's Services committee as well as participating on many merit selection panels.

The Region conducted workshops for staff development days and had active involvement in NAIDOC events.

## 9 HUNTER

Hunter Regional AECG is represented by nine Local AECG's; Mankillikan, Muloobinbah, Itja Marru, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Minimbah, Maitland, Korreil Wonnai and Youyoong Local AECG's. Our local AECG's work tirelessly to promote AECG in the community and in schools and as a result we have 12 functioning Junior AECG's in our region. They are; Cessnock HS, Mount View HS, Kurri Kurri HS, Rutherford Technology HS, Hunter Sports HS, Muswellbrook HS, Singleton HS, Francis Greenway HS, Dungog HS, Hunter River HS, Irrawang HS, Tomaree HS.

Hunter Regional AECG is committed to increasing community membership and has developed a Regional Website, members resource pack which consists of a folder containing hard copies of AECG information, a AECG USB with electronic copies of information and a member's resource PowerPoint overview to support our Local AECG's to share information with their Local AECG members. Local AECG's have continued to engage in developing and signing off their own Local Agreements. Our commitment to the State and Hunter Region Partnership Agreement is demonstrated by our ongoing active participation in numerous Regional Committees such as RAEAC, Scholarship Advisory Committees, Merit Selection Panels and National Partnership Committees and Local Management Groups.

## 10 MET EAST

This year in the Met East Region we have three local AECG's. They are Eastern Suburbs, Inner West (formerly Inner City) and Southern Suburbs.

We ran, with the support of the Secretariat, a Regional Connecting to Country program which combined schools from two local AECG's, Eastern Suburbs and Inner City. This program was very successful and has resulted in stronger ties between the schools and the communities involved. Due to the success of the program we are looking forward to having one in the Southern Suburbs in 2013 and another one in the Eastern Suburbs.

2012 was a very busy one for the Region as we had to re-establish the Inner City – now known as Inner West, and support the Eastern Suburbs Local AECG with a difficult

school situation which ended well for the community. We will continue to monitor the situation and support the school through their transition to re-establishing ties to the AECG and community.

Highlights: One of our students received the Zonta Woman's Award- this award is an international award that was awarded for the first time in Australia. This student has also been accepted into College of Fine Arts (COFA) at University of NSW for 2013.

## 11 MET NORTH

Our Region has participated in numerous activities including representation on an Advisory Group for Taronga Zoo and their Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, merit selection panels and Department of Education and Communities Northern Sydney Region Aboriginal Education Planning Group. Members attended and helped facilitate a student initiated Cultural Day at Manly Selective Campus, Northern Beaches College and the Northern Sydney Region/AECG Regional Awards

During 2012, we were current members of NSI TAFE Advisory Council and Gamarada Peak Working Group and Biala Girls Hostel Consultative Committee

We have signed Partnership Agreements with various schools.

Throughout the year we have worked with the University of Technology Sydney in student teacher interviews and have participated in HSC Aboriginal Studies interviews and consultation.

## 12 MET WEST

Met West Regional AECG continues to provide support and advice to both Aboriginal Education Workers within many schools, along with support to the student leadership group and junior regional AECG Members. We have provided and assisted a number of community members and parents in attending meetings with them held at the school in order to resolve suspensions. We have also provided them with detailed information with dealing with official complaints.

We have conducted Merit Selection Training and continue to build more capacity for members sitting on regional committees.

## 13 MET SOUTH WEST

Our Region has participated in a number of events over the year. These include Merit Selection Panels and training for this was provided to members. We were also part of consultation meetings to support schools on Schools In Partnership, focus Schools and National Partnerships.

We have also been involved in interagency meetings and attend and participate in the regional planning group and work collaboratively with Liverpool City Council and Department of Education and Communities to run the Mil-Pra Art Exhibition and plan with the Department of Education and Communities the Aboriginal Student Awards

At the Regional Aboriginal Education Conference we provided information on the AECG and have supported teachers in adding Aboriginal perspectives to teaching units and assist students currently doing Aboriginal Studies by correspondence.

## 14 UPPER SOUTH COAST

Our Region has participated on a large number of merit selection panels, we have also attended No Gap: No Excuse cultural awareness training developed in consultation with the Department of Education and Communities Illawarra South East Region and the opening of the Nowra Aboriginal Child and Family Centre

We have been working closely with parents in the Gerringong area to form a local AECG which will include Minamurra, Kiama, Jamberoo, Gerringong, Shoalhaven heads and possibly Berry

Throughout the year we have also assisted in giving support and advice to parents who have issues at school.

## 16 RIVERINA 1

This year we have successfully conducted the Connecting to Country program. We have also had numerous students succeed in their HSC, Traineeships, scholarships, sport as well as running assemblies.

We have celebrated many significant events including Close the Gap Day, Harmony Day and NAIDOC.

Our Region has also worked closely with the pre-schools to implement an Aboriginal perspective in education

We had a delegate attending the Youth Forum who enjoyed the experience and thought it very worthwhile.

## 18 RIVERIANA 3

This year we have successfully conducted the Connecting to Country program and continue to support schools and communities with cultural activities which include NAIDOC celebrations, language initiatives and cultural days for teachers.

We have also provided advice on Aboriginal perspectives and supported programs such as 8 Ways of Learning and Kids in Actions program for disengaged students. We continue to have an active Junior AECG.

## 19 CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast Regional AECG conducted the Connecting to Country program with great success. The Region also participated in Merit Selection Training and 15 members undertook the Student Learning Support Officer course in partnership with TAFE. We are a member of the Board of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Training at the University of Newcastle and are developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the university. The Central Coast Regional AECG organised and participated in a Pathway Awards night to recognise the achievement of Aboriginal students on the Central Coast. We had input into the Department of Education and Communities Hunter/Central Coast Regions Strategic Plan and supported the Next Step Focus schools. We attended the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs community consultations, language forums, Reconciliation events and had representation on scholarship panels.

# SECTION FIVE

## NSW AECG INC PARTNERSHIPS & ADVOCACIES



### 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 to represent the viewpoint of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to advocate on their behalf ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can be directly involved in the design, development and implementation of education policies and programs.

During 2012, IECB's met regularly in different States and Territories, including Sydney, 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 Australian Curriculum, the Gonski Report, the implications of providing more autonomy to schools and a myriad of other programs the Australian government administers.

The NSW AECG Inc. represents the IECB's on a number of National Committees and reports back to the committee for advice and direction.

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.

### First Peoples Education Advisory Group

The NSW AECG Inc. continues to advise the Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett MP through its membership of the First Peoples Education Advisory Group.

Members of the First Peoples Education Advisory Group are appointed for a three year term and are made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education representatives from academia, school education, early childhood education and community organisations.

During 2012 the First Peoples Education Advisory Group convened meetings which provided direct advice to Minister Garrett on best practices and barriers relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

### Department and Communities (DEC)/NSW AECG Inc. Partnership Agreement

The NSW AECG Inc. continues to work in partnership with the Department of Education and Communities under the Partnership Agreement entitled *Together We Are Together We Can Together We Will*.

At the NSW AECG Inc 2012 Annual Conference the newly appointed Director General addressed the members in attendance informing the delegates that she intends to honour this unique agreement.

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 2012, 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.





**DURING 2012 EIGHT STUDENTS WERE SUPPORTED WITH THE PURCHASE OF EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND SERVICES SUCH AS COMPUTERS, TEXT BOOKS, TUTORING AND OTHER APPROVED STUDY EQUIPMENT.**

### Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

The NSW AECG Inc. continues to partner with the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to provide scholarships to Aboriginal students in year 11 and year 12 who are interested in building a career in Environmental Science, Civil and Mechanical Engineering or a similar field.

During 2012 eight students were supported with the purchase of educational tools and services such as computers, text books, tutoring and other approved study equipment. As a commitment to the scholarship each student is provided work experience within RMS that is undertaken during school holidays or designated work experience within the school.

The NSW AECG Inc. looks forward to continuing the partnership with the Roads and Maritime Services ensuring the scholars are supported effectively.

### Aboriginal Studies Association (ASA)

The NSW AECG Inc. continues its partnership with the Aboriginal Studies Association by continuing to providing administrative support.

The Aboriginal Studies Association (ASA) 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 2012, the Association continued to work on advocating for Aboriginal Studies and providing quality professional learning support for all teachers. The 2012 conference was supported by the NSW AECG Inc. and celebrated Aboriginal Studies since Mabo. 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 Aboriginal Studies Association continues to work closely 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.

The ASA also provides mentoring support to teachers of stage 5 and 6 Aboriginal Studies.

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

### Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs (MTAA)

In 2011 the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Victor Dominello announced a Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs to address the ongoing issues facing Aboriginal communities in NSW.

The Taskforce includes seven Ministers of the NSW Government including Minister Piccoli (Education) and representatives of the Aboriginal community and Non Government sector.

During 2012 the Taskforce held two rounds of community consultations in several locations across NSW. These forums allowed NSW Ministers and senior officers to hear directly from Aboriginal people the issues that are currently affecting Aboriginal communities.

The forums were well attended by members of our Regional and Local AECG's, with a number of areas for attention being captured including education and training, employment and Aboriginal languages and culture.

The final report is due to be released early 2013 and the NSW AECG Inc, will continue to work with the relevant agencies to ensure the viewpoint of the Aboriginal community is well represented especially in accessing quality education and training.

### Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC)

In 2012 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced the launch of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) replacing the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA).

The NSW AECG Inc. continues as an active member of the 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 on matters relating on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

The SCSEEC priority issues are:

1. Develop and deliver an Australian Curriculum;
2. Promoting quality teaching and school leadership;
3. Promoting equity in schooling with an initial focus on specific measures for Indigenous Australians and rural and remote students;
4. Collaboration between jurisdictions on measures aimed at realising the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians;



5. Develop strengthened transparency and accountability arrangements in schools and accountability arrangements in school education;
6. Implementation of reforms in early childhood development with initial focus on the National Early Childhood Development Strategy and National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care; and
7. Review and consider the development of new approaches to school resourcing through the Australian Government Review of School Funding and the Council's Review of Funding and Regulation under the National Education Agreement

The Working Group continues to be responsible for implementing the actions contained in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010 – 2014*.

### Public Education Foundation (PEF)

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to providing life-changing scholarships to young people in public education. The Public Education foundation believes education has the power to change lives and helping young people in public education is one of the best investments society can make.

The NSW AECG collaborated with the Public Education Foundation in the administration of the Una May Smith Scholarship.

The Public Education Foundation's Una May Smith Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship which aims to support Aboriginal students to participate in and successfully complete schooling and progress to tertiary education and/or training.

This Scholarship is named in honour of Una May Smith of Coogee. Miss Una May Smith was an Aboriginal woman whose career in education had involvement with La Perouse Public School over a number of years. Miss Smith generously bequeathed part of her estate for the establishment of this Scholarship.

The NSW AECG believes the recipients of this scholarship are worthy winners and we wish them the best in their future education journey.

### Board of Studies NSW

The NSW AECG Inc. is a member of the Board of Studies, ensuring Aboriginal people are represented in all aspects of the Board's planning, policy and strategy. The NSW AECG Inc. provides advice, through the various Board Curriculum Committees (BCCs), ensuring that curriculum meets the needs of Aboriginal students and promotes awareness and understanding of Aboriginal Australia by all students.

The NSW AECG Inc. continues its representation on BCCs and provides advice on all matters relevant to inclusive curriculum and the implementation of Aboriginal perspectives in syllabuses, curriculum and teaching

In 2012 the President continued to chair the Board of Studies Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC). The responsibility and accountability of the AEAC has continued to expand and now provides advice to the Board of Studies and to the Chief Executive of the Office of the Board of Studies.

This year the NSW AECG Inc. continued to advocate to ensure that the Australian Curriculum includes Aboriginal content and perspectives including traditional, contemporary and Aboriginal languages.

The NSW AECG Inc. looks forward to continued collaboration in order to improve outcomes for all Aboriginal students, as well as ensuring that all students learn about Aboriginal Australia in the context of understanding the true and shared history.

### Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way Delivery (IPROWD)

The NSW AECG was one of the primary partners of the IPROWD state steering committee. The committee's role is:

- › To ensure the IPROWD program continues to contribute to community capacity building
- › Oversee the delivery of IPROWD at a corporate level of management and offer support and recommendations to ensure the ongoing successful delivery of the project
- › Identify barriers and discuss/recommend solutions to achieve successful outcomes in the delivery of IPROWD and discuss and resolve other matters relating to the delivery of the project as required
- › Monitor achievements in meeting IPROWD outcome targets with regards to pre-employment training, college enrolments, employment placements and other activities of the project
- › To oversee the delivery and reporting of the DEEWR IEP Contract

We look forward to our ongoing involvement in the program.

### Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

#### Teacher Professional Development in Indigenous Education Course Project

2012 saw the NSW AECG work with Monash University and provide advice on the development of 2 unit outlines with 6 modules in each with relevant content to support the provision of professional development that addresses both National Professional Teaching Standards 1.4 and 2.4.

- › Standard 1.4: Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
  - › Standard 2.4: Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- The outlines and content addressed the common elements of the two professional learning units aimed at providing teachers with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to meet Standards 1.4 and 2.4.

The work around increasing teacher knowledge is critically important not just for Aboriginal students but for all students

### Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC)

2012 saw an invitation from Andrew Scipione APM, Commissioner of Police to join the Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC). The Council was established in 1992 to provide the NSW Police Force Executive with advice on issues impacting upon the delivery of policing services to the Aboriginal community in NSW.

PASAC:

- › Oversees the implementation and outcomes of the Aboriginal Strategic Direction
- › Reviews activities associated with the implementation of the Aboriginal Strategic Direction and recommend accordingly
- › Monitors the performance of the Police Aboriginal Consultative Committees
- › Monitors corporate policies on Aboriginal justices issues; and
- › Identifies strategic Aboriginal issues that have state-wide implications for discussion

# SECTION SIX

## NSW AECG INC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the 2012 audited financial statements for NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated (NSW AECG).

2012 was a year of significant growth and change for the NSW AECG, some of the key financial highlights were:

- Clean and unqualified audit report;
- Revenue increased by 86% - from \$1,173million in 2011 to \$2.185million in 2012. In 2007 prior to the leadership of the incumbent President, NSW AECG revenue was only \$0.598million;
- Significant expenditure increases in travel, salary, meetings and conference costs incurred have been geared towards increasing head office investment, support and presence within the regions;
- The current year operating result is a small deficit of \$43,792. Between 2008 and 2011 an accumulated surplus of \$62,992 had been generated. Given the objective of NSW AECG is to fully invest it's income received into service delivery, for 2012 the decision was taken to reinvest part of those prior year surpluses directly back into the delivery of programs.

The NSW AECG continued our role in assisting our stakeholders in directly undertaking projects. To this end, during 2012 we alleviated the administrative financial burden through the au-spicing and acquittal of grants on behalf for the following:

- Upper North Coast PACE Project;
- Lower North Coast PACE Project;
- CALCD Language Centre;
- CTC Research Project;
- Aboriginal Studies Association;

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 State Office. 2012 has been a milestone year for growth for NSW AECG, the benchmark has now been re-set upon which future years shall be measured.

Yours sincerely;

**Michelle Grove**  
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 2012.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

#### Current Members

President – Cindy Berwick (app 8/3/12)  
 Vice President – Ken Weatherall (app 8/3/12)  
 Secretary – Susan Matthews (app 8/3/12)  
 Treasurer – Michelle Grove (app 8/3/12)  
 Member – Leigh Ridgeway (app 8/3/12)  
 Member – Eddie Pitt (app 8/3/12)  
 Member – Bobbi Murray (app 8/3/12)  
 Member – Jenny Ronning (app 8/3/12)  
 Member – Anne Dennis (app 8/3/12)

#### Ceased Members

Tom Flanders (ceased 8/3/12)  
 Stella Lamb (ceased 8/3/12)  
 Gwen Griffen (ceased 8/3/12)

### 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.

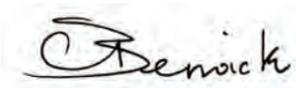
### OPERATING RESULT

The deficit from ordinary activities amounted to \$43,792 (2011 surplus: \$42,973).

### 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: 28th day of February 2013

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2012

	Note	2012	2011
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Government grants		2,045,671	1,045,433
Interest received		53,419	54,767
Registration fees and sales		16,033	18,283
Other revenue		69,869	54,666
		<b>2,184,992</b>	<b>1,173,149</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accounting		42,000	24,000
Administration fees		-	38,162
Advertising		1,193	5,650
Auditor fees	2	11,500	9,250
Bank fees		1,040	1,028
Cabcharge / taxi		15,384	7,032
Catering expenses		76,501	43,372
Cleaning		11,715	5,617
Consultancy		133,060	43,368
Conference/meeting costs		225,464	82,695
Computer expenses		10,588	2,465
Costs of goods sold		1,133	10,668
Courier costs		2,686	-
Cultural immersion workshops		-	27,893
Depreciation		40,246	21,134
Electricity		5,098	1,150
Floral tributes, gifts and donations		9,165	13,713
Fringe Benefits Tax		5,769	2,365
Function expenses		10,759	3,486
Gas		620	60
General expenses		3,968	4,599
Insurance		8,578	7,437
Legal costs		-	4,000
Magazines, journals and subscriptions		1,169	-
Motor vehicle costs		79,517	42,520
Petty cash		-	800
Postage		551	1,034
		<b>697,704</b>	<b>403,498</b>

Expenditure to be carried forward to next page

## INCOME STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 December 2012

	Note	2012	2011
		\$	\$
<b>Expenditure brought forward from prior page</b>		<b>697,704</b>	<b>403,498</b>
Printing and stationary		110,660	20,427
Promotional expenses		80,730	8,608
Regional representative operational expenses		57,861	20,132
Rent		50,422	12,498
Repairs and maintenance		5,636	470
Salaries and wages		803,739	463,621
Security costs		498	412
Training and welfare		68,682	3,037
Superannuation		71,084	40,756
Sustenance		21,611	38,228
Telephone		22,177	16,947
Travelling		237,980	101,542
		2,228,784	1,130,176
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from ordinary activities</b>		<b>(43,792)</b>	<b>42,973</b>
<b>Retained Surplus at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>630,336</b>	<b>587,363</b>
<b>Retained Surplus at the end of the year</b>		<b>586,544</b>	<b>630,336</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2012

	Note	2012	2011
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,557,682	1,644,702
Trade and other receivables	4	61,081	53,166
Inventory	5	5,370	10,801
Other assets	6	38,136	2,010
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,662,269</b>	<b>1,710,679</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	7	167,486	144,178
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>167,486</b>	<b>144,178</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,829,755</b>	<b>1,854,857</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	255,021	214,261
Grants in advance	9	949,995	985,323
Employee Entitlements	10	36,517	16,630
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,241,533</b>	<b>1,216,214</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee Entitlements	10	1,678	8,307
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,678</b>	<b>8,307</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,243,211</b>	<b>1,224,521</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>586,544</b>	<b>630,336</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		586,544	630,336
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>586,544</b>	<b>630,336</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2012

## 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 2009 and the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2010 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 2012 have been understated by \$504,387 (2011: \$736,052) 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 2012 financial statements.

### m. Inventory

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

## NOTE 2: AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

Auditing or reviewing the financial report  
Other services

## 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  
Credit Card  
Cash on hand

## NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Grants Receivable  
Other Receivables

## NOTE 5: INVENTORY

Stock on hand - at cost

## NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS

Prepayments  
Website - WIP

## NOTE 7: PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Office Furniture and Equipment  
Motor Vehicles  
Less accumulated depreciation

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
	11,500	9,250
	-	-
	11,500	9,250
	16,717	119,031
	48,649	46,865
	1,416,367	1,410,575
	10,254	10,224
	58,067	55,938
	498	469
	5,030	-
	2,100	1,600
	1,557,682	1,644,702
	45,000	45,000
	16,081	8,166
	61,081	53,166
	5,370	10,801
	5,370	10,801
	23,544	2,010
	14,592	-
	38,136	2,010
	175,135	111,948
	118,527	118,527
	(126,176)	(86,297)
	167,486	144,178

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2012

## NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade and Sundry Creditors	63,476	36,470
Met East Regional Account – Held in Trust	58,067	55,938
North West 2 Account – Held in Trust	498	469
ASA Account – Held in Trust	21,245	38,193
Lower Nth Coast PACE – Held in Trust	-	20,808
Upper Nth Coast PACE – Held in Trust	1,500	-
Dubbo Local CSU – Held in Trust	-	16,500
Unearned Income	-	17,452
Superannuation Accrual	23,242	14,329
Goods and Services Tax - net	71,422	(266)
PAYG Withholding Accrual	15,571	14,368

## NOTE 9: GRANTS IN ADVANCE

Aboriginal Languages – Dept. of Human Services	225,729	74,393
Parenting Workshops – DEEWR	(105,739)	404,285
Cultural Immersion – NSW Dept. Education & Training	323,943	413,566
Scholarships – NSW Roads & Traffic Authority	11,741	5,612
Languages Schools – Dept. of Human Services	454,545	-
CTC Research – NSW Dept. Education & Training	39,776	87,467

## NOTE 10: EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

### CURRENT

Provision for Annual Leave	36,517	16,630
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### NON CURRENT

Provision for Long Service Leave	1,678	8,307
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## NOTE 11: LEASING COMMITMENTS

### a. Operating Lease Commitments

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

Payable:

- not later than 1 year
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years
- later than 5 years

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
	63,476	36,470
	58,067	55,938
	498	469
	21,245	38,193
	-	20,808
	1,500	-
	-	16,500
	-	17,452
	23,242	14,329
	71,422	(266)
	15,571	14,368
	255,021	214,261
	225,729	74,393
	(105,739)	404,285
	323,943	413,566
	11,741	5,612
	454,545	-
	39,776	87,467
	949,995	985,323
	36,517	16,630
	36,517	16,630
	1,678	8,307
	1,678	8,307
	80,443	121,287
	-	17,270
	-	-
	80,443	138,557

## 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 2012 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

Dated: 28th day of February 2013

# INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



Vanessa Patricio  
Principal  
  
Level 26  
44 Market Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
  
Telephone (02) 9089 8640  
Facsimile (02) 9089 8989  
Email [vanessa@mosaicac.com.au](mailto:vanessa@mosaicac.com.au)

**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 2012 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 2012 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**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Patricio'.

**Vanessa Patricio**  
Principal  
Registered Company Auditor # 333315

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013  
Sydney, NSW



## NSW AECG Inc. Secretariat

37 Cavendish St  
Stanmore NSW 2048

**Phone** (02) 9550-5666  
**Fax** (02) 9550-3361  
**Web** [www.aecg.nsw.edu.au](http://www.aecg.nsw.edu.au)  
**Email** [info@aecg.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@aecg.nsw.edu.au)