

December 2023

# From the Presidents Desk

NSW AECG Inc.



Ray Ingrey

Interim President

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group is one of the strongest Aboriginal community controlled organisations due to our strong member base and vast community network across New South Wales.

I first became involved in the NSW AECG when I joined the Eastern Suburbs Local AECG in 2001 and quickly took up the role of Local President at the request and support of two active Life Members in Auntie Joyce Woodberry and Auntie Delma Davison.



In the same year I became an Aboriginal Education Assistant (AEA) at a local primary school and in 2004 I went on to become the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer in the Sydney Region.

I have served as Regional Representative and Regional Treasurer with Met East Region and in 2007 became the AECG Education Officer with Aboriginal Programs Unit. In 2008 I became the Executive Officer of the NSW AECG Secretariat and worked closely with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders at a local, regional, state and national level.

In 2013, I went back into the Department of Education and undertook a number of roles including Manager, Languages and Communities with the Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement Directorate. I resigned from the Department in 2017 and worked directly in my community, the La Perouse Aboriginal Community, as Chairperson of Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation, Chairperson of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Alliance and Chairperson of the Gujaga Foundation.

During 2017 - 2021 I assisted in the delivery of the NSW AECG's Aboriginal Cultural Professional Development program to the Department of Education and Department of Communities and Justice.

On 6 October 2023 the Association Management Committee met and unanimously agreed to appoint me to the role of Interim President. It was a decision I didn't take lightly and am honoured to even be considered for the role.

I look forward to working with Local and Regional AECG's to ensure our children and young people can achieve their potential during their education journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ray'.

# 1st State Meeting

The 1st State Meeting was held on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November 2023 on Bundjalung Country and pay particular respect to the Tulgi-gin and Nganduwal language groups.

The Tweed/Wollumbin Local AECG, being the host Local AECG, started the State Meeting with a strong Welcome to Country that included a performance by Banor Point Primary School Choir and Aunty Jackie McDonald, Life Member for showing us her Country.

Each Region shared the great work being done within their Local AECG's and highlighted some of the matters Regions are needing support with.

The Secretariat staff led workshops that will be a focus of the organisation in 2024 including Early Childhood Aboriginal Engagement Officers and Field Officers.



The State Committee (Regional Reps and AMC Members) heard from the NSW Department of Education's

- Aboriginal Outcome Partnerships Directorate regarding the new corporate structure and work focus for 2024;
- Early Childhood Outcome about the NSW Government's commitment to 100 new Public Preschools; and
- Student and Parent Experience, Learning Improvement about the Department's Policy & Procedure Redesign Program

Please contact your Regional Representative if you wish to find out more.





HELD ON  
BUNDJULANG  
COUNTRY



# Association Management Committee and NSW Department of Education Senior Leadership Meeting

On 1 December 2023 the Association Management Committee met with the NSW Department of Education's Senior Leadership Team including the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries. The meeting was held at the Murrook Cultural Centre at the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council in Williamstown.

At the meeting we discussed a number of matters relating to Aboriginal Education in NSW including: an update on the Partnership Agreement, particularly how our organisations can work together while

respecting our independence; recommendations from the 2023 Annual General Meeting; update on the Close the Gap initiatives including the 6 led by NSWAECCG; and opportunities moving forward to improve the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector at all levels of Education.



We also discussed the Department's 10 year workforce strategy and finished the meeting hearing from Andrew Smith, Chief Executive of Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council about the vision, dedication and hard work of the local Aboriginal community to create opportunities for training and employment through enterprise.

The Association Management Committee is committed to 'walking, together, working together' with the Department of Education's Senior Leadership to ensure every Aboriginal child and young person can achieve their potential through Education.

## HELD ON WORIMI COUNTRY