




AISWA

Future Footprints

2021 Term 2

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) National Dialogue on Indigenous cultural competency in the Australian teaching workforce

Throughout 2020 and 2021 AISWA Future Footprints has been contributing to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) initiative to explore views on how teachers and leaders in schools across Australia can be supported to enhance their Indigenous cultural competency.

As part of this process, in February 2021 we participated in a national online forum that sought to enhance AITSL's understanding of matters specific to boarding schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarders. This consultation had a specific focus on the process teachers and school leaders in boarding schools can embark on to critically understand, continually develop, and effectively enact their cultural competency. It also aimed to provide teachers and school leaders with guidance on the use of relevant resources and tools to help them improve or enhance their pedagogical practice in culturally responsive ways. Four key questions were asked during this forum: What does a culturally competent teaching workforce look like? What does a teacher and school leader need to be culturally competent and what will it take to achieve this? What does cultural safety look like in schools? And what might be some of the challenges or barriers we face in developing a culturally competent teaching workforce?

Following the online forum, in May 2021 AISWA Future Footprints was invited to attend the AITSL National Dialogue Conference in Canberra which brought together a range of educational experts, systems and sector representatives, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, teachers and school leaders to critically consider and discuss cultural competency in the Australian teaching force. This two-day event sought to build on earlier consultation and research and involved a variety of keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities, with the overarching aim to develop a roadmap for AITSL's development of resources and tools to support teachers and school leaders to build their cultural competency. It was warming to see that throughout the National Dialogue Conference all stakeholders placed a high value on relationships. AISWA Future Footprints sees meaningful relationships as fundamental to the safety and success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people at boarding schools and as a key factor in effecting positive trajectories in their educational journey.

A particularly inspiring moment for us as a team while in Canberra was spending time and sharing in the National Dialogue with former Santa Maria College and AISWA Future Footprints graduate (2007) Victoria May. Victoria is now an advisor on Teaching and Learning Policy, Education and Youth Policy Branch, with the National Indigenous Australians Agency. We are exceptionally proud of her and the amazing contribution she is making to the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and their families.



BROOME CONFERENCE 2021

The Broome Conference is the peak professional learning event held each year for principals, leaders, teachers, and education assistants at Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) across Western Australia. It is an opportunity for AISWA to support the work that these schools do, the projects they share, their success stories, and the conditions in which they operate. After a warm Welcome to Yawuru Country, keynote presentations were provided by Dr Graeme Gower on the On Country Teacher Education delivered by Curtin University; Tom Wood from SDERA (School Drug Education and Road Aware); and our own wonderful Toni Tomlin (AISWA Lead Psychologist, School Psychology Service) presented on the recently revised [School Response and Planning Guidelines for Students with Suicidal Behaviour and non-Suicidal Self-Injury](#) – an important keynote and document that we encourage all schools ensure they are familiar with.

This was a great opportunity to present an overview of the AISWA Future Footprints Program and how it works to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people that schools away from home at 17 boarding schools in Perth. The second half of this presentation shared information about the [Partnerships, Acceptance, Learning, Sharing \(PALS\)](#) initiative designed to promote the reconciliation in the classroom and the newly created PALS Project Toolkit. While in Broome AISWA Future Footprints also met with Scotty Wilson to plan the Future Footprints and Year13 Careers Expo for 2021, while also visiting the wonderful [Magabala Books](#), as well as spending time the inspirational team and people at [Nyamba Buru Yawuru](#): we will definitely be back to learn more, a very sincere thank you for your time.



CAREERS EXPO YEAR 13

In the weeks following another snap COVID lockdown in Perth, Future Footprints was delighted to bring to Perth Scott Wilson of Year 13 to talk about their online careers platform, and the online Careers Expo held in May. Scott Wilson, Hale School graduate and alumnus of the program, visited the students at each school to go through the Year 13 platform and share his experiences since leaving school, which include working in the mines, playing for the Brumbies Rugby team, and working on his own animation and film series'.



CAREERS EXPO YEAR 13 CONT.

During the three day online Year 13 Careers Expo, Future Footprints hosted a 'stage', for graduates of the participating schools and other high profile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to showcase their career paths and journeys since graduating Year 12. Features on this stage included:

Josie Janz-Dawson (Australian Netball Player), Dwes Wiggan-Dann & Katherine Dann (Amazing Race Australia), Sam May (Chef), Flewnt (Hip Hop Artist), Marlikka Perdrisat (Model & Actor), William Miller (Mechanic), Alethea Beetson (Artistic Director), Jiah Reidy (Department of Health), Benjamin Thomson (Founder Take Pride). There were 4 other stages showcasing various careers, as well as exhibitor 'booths' for students to interact with companies and organisations of interest.





RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated in May every year

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action*, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action. Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures. 2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of Australia's formal reconciliation process.

Staff at AISWA participated in events at our offices, including a viewing of "We Don't Need a Map", participation in a live webinar "Two Worlds", and attendance at the Reconciliation WA "Walk for Reconciliation"

Future Footprints staff participated in the Reconciliation WA "Yarning Circles" held at WA Museum Boola Bardip, as well as visiting schools. Including Iona Presentation College and Presbyterian Ladies' College to participate in their reconciliation activities, a yarning tree and a sand mural (pictured page right).



NAIDOC WEEK



The 2021 NAIDOC theme – Heal Country! – calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction. Country that is more than a place and inherent to our identity. Country that we speak about like a person, sustaining our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally.

NAIDOC 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians. For generations we have been calling for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of our culture and heritage. We are still waiting for those robust protections.

This year's theme also seeks substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform – something generations of our Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for. Healing Country means finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices which impact on the lives of our people. It is about hearing and actioning the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which are the culmination of generations of consultation and discussions among our nations on a range of issues and grievances. Heal Country, heal our nation.

As NAIDOC week, many schools celebrate in a different week during the school term through many different ways including sand murals, special assemblies, guest speakers, and bush tucker such as kangaroo stew.



CONTACT FUTURE FOOTPRINTS TEAM

To all the parents, carers, families and communities, if you have any queries or need assistance in Perth, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following numbers:



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