

Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 1:55 PM
To: Committee, Indigenous Affairs (REPS)
Subject: Submissions on Indigenous Education

I am a 52yr old Ballardong Noongar woman. I live in the wheatbelt.

The education of our Aboriginal children is so important, something has to be done now.

Firstly I suggest the Federal Government involve us aboriginal people at all times when issues they want to discuss/improve etc involve us!

I am very passionate about the importance education is for everyone, but especially my people.

This issue is very complex because there is usually a number of issues why our kids are not or lose interest in going to school.

Aboriginal children should be screened for hearing problems before starting school as 'glue ear' is prevalent in our very young people. If they can not hear why would they want to stay at school?

There are also home issues that needs to be focussed on too.

I would like to see aboriginal workers such as AIEO's in every school where an aboriginal child attends.

There needs to be a male and a female AIEO. In our culture girls talk to aunties/Nana's and boys talk to uncles/pop's.

AIEO's and such should be elders mostly, younger AIEO's can also be there to learn from the elders.

In aboriginal culture the 'elders' are the people our younger people look up to for advice/guidance. Elders are also be more likely to succeed in getting the children to attend/stay at school.

Teachers also need to be culturally educated on aboriginal culture.

Lastly I would love to be involved in helping to achieve better outcomes in the education system for my young people.

If there is a roll for me please include me.

Kind regards
Tracey de Grussa