



Improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

What works? What's important? What can we do better? These are some of the questions being asked by the House Indigenous Affairs Committee in its inquiry into educational opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Committee is examining the access to, participation in and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at different types of schools – from remote to regional, boarding, scholarship, community, independent and city schools.

As part of the inquiry, the Committee wants to hear the experiences of students, educators, families and communities and has launched an anonymous online questionnaire. A link to the questionnaire can be found on the [Committee's website](#). The questionnaire gives people all around Australia the chance to tell their story and make a personal contribution to the inquiry.

Dr Sharman Stone, Chair of the Committee, said that addressing the gap in educational outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is a critical part of improving quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

‘I would encourage anyone who would like to share their experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education to fill out the questionnaire. We want to hear from students and their families about their school experience, and from the teachers and school administrators who have worked with them, from pre-school level right through to the transition to tertiary education,’ said Dr Stone.

In a YouTube video launched as part of the inquiry, Dr Stone asks all those involved in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to ‘tell us what you think: what has worked in your part of Australia, and what hasn't.’

The YouTube video, a link to the questionnaire and further information on the inquiry can be found at www.aph.gov.au/educationalopportunities. The questionnaire will be online from now until March 2016.

The Committee will also accept submissions to the inquiry until February 2016.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair the Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4477 (Parliament House).

For background information, and advice on making submissions, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or indigenouaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au