

Questionnaire

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Affairs
Inquiry into language learning in indigenous communities

1. What are the languages spoken in your community?
 - Gurang & Gooreng Gooreng

2. How well are they spoken by children, adults and elders?
 - Bits and pieces of local language are put together within certain topics, but mostly words and not phrases or sentences.

3. Describe your group and project:
 - Standardised approach to learning local languages.

 - a) Why was it important to start up?
 - It was clear that if the harmonious learning environments were to be engaging with the community as a whole, we needed to provide them with a foundational tool.

 - b) How long have you been running?
 - We have only just begun to introduce this standard of learning to the community within the last 3 months.

 - c) What age group(s) are you working with?
 - High School students are our main target audience.

 - d) How many people are involved?
 - 3 people are currently working on this project.

4. What activities do you do to record or encourage the use of languages, including local languages?
- We facilitate groups of indigenous students to learn the words and pronunciation of a well-known 'Welcome to Country' song.
- a) How are local schools involved?
- We have met with Principals of the schools who have allowed us to come in and discuss the option of learning the local language to the indigenous students. We believe that if they continue to let us present our programs they will achieve a positive outcome for the students, which can affect literacy and numeracy levels as well as school retention levels.
- b) What help do you receive from the government or other organisations to carry out your activities?
- The CQ Language Centre is currently receiving triennial funding from the government.
- c) Can you describe how your project's activities may have helped the whole community?
- The CQ Language Centre has fostered a foundation for learning within CQ language groups which has been encouraging the community to grow in understanding of what is needed to revitalise languages within the CQ region.
5. How are your languages, including your local languages taught in school?
- At the moment the local languages are being taught in schools by local language workers. These language workers are aboriginal people who have been self-taught educators who have adapted their own way of introducing linguistic research.
- a) What difference has the teaching of local languages made to children's attendance and achievement at school?
- The schools have recognised that there has been an increase in attendance and achievement at school.

6. What interpreting and translating services are available in your local languages?

How useful and effective are they?

- At the moment the CQ Language Centre is the main hub for translating services in the CQ region.

The CQ Language Centre is required to provide support for indigenous language groups throughout the CQ region.

It can assist with community consultations, implementing of resources, as well as resource development for local projects.

The CQ Language Centre is constantly developing resources to support indigenous language communities' making it become a useful and effective organisation for all CQ language groups, because it can be easily accessed for use.

7. What are the main difficulties facing your project?

- There is a problem which is affecting the pronunciation of words, because there is a lack of knowledge in this area.

8. What are you aiming to achieve in the future?

- The CQ Language Centre is hoping to build a resource that can become the foundation tool for all language learners in the CQ region.