

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter One

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA ensure that raising of literacy and numeracy skills of Indigenous students to the level obtained by non-Indigenous students remains an urgent national priority.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends to MCEETYA that agreement be reached on the uniform tabulation of expenditure on Indigenous education in all states and territories.

Chapter Two

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Indigenous Education Direct Assistance (IEDA) programs should be retained as centrally funded programs administered by DETYA.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that DETYA investigate ways of providing greater flexibility in the use of discretionary funds, including funding for regional projects and direct funding for schools.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that a comprehensive review of the NATSIEP be undertaken in 2002, at the end of the fourth triennium of operation.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that all Commonwealth, state and territory policies and strategies be developed and delivered in a context that recognises, and takes full account of, the cultural history, identity, diversity and continuing educational disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the appointment of an independent national consultative body to advise MCEETYA on Indigenous education needs and policy; this body to include representatives of ATSIC and the Indigenous education consultative bodies that already advise state and territory education ministers.

Chapter Three

Recommendation 8

The Committee commends DETYA for the development of a national Indigenous school attendance strategy and recommends that all necessary resources be supplied as a matter of urgency to enable its prompt implementation.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA facilitate discussions with Commonwealth and state agencies to coordinate initiatives to improve the participation rates and educational outcomes of Indigenous communities.

Chapter Four

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that coordinated strategies aimed at improving access to secondary education in remote communities be investigated by an independent national consultative body on Indigenous education established by MCEETYA.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends MCEETYA give renewed emphasis to the provision of pre-schools for remote communities.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA develop a coordinated consultative national approach to ensure that culturally appropriate best practice informs all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and training needs.

Recommendation 13

The Committee notes the interest of ATSIC in exploring the potential for expansion of computer-aided learning for Indigenous people in remote communities and recommends that the Minister initiate a pilot project to trial the use of satellite or microwave based internet technology.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that a set of national participation goals and outcomes be developed by DETYA for the education and training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and that these cover the spectrum of lifelong learning with specific and designated responsibilities being allocated to the Commonwealth and to states and territories.

Chapter Five

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that support for bilingual education programs be maintained in those areas where they are seen as appropriate and necessary by Indigenous communities.

Chapter Six

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends to MCEETYA the development of appropriate performance indicators for monitoring the employment of Indigenous people in education.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the Minister initiate a pilot project in an appropriate university for the purpose of delivering teacher education programs via satellite or microwave Internet technology to Indigenous trainee teachers in remote communities.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA review incentives to attract and retain experienced teachers in remote areas and in schools with a large proportion of Indigenous students, and to consider the introduction of remote area teaching scholarships.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA implement a strategy that provides an appropriate career and salary structure for AIEWs in all the states and territories and that provides for consistency in pay and conditions across the states and territories. It further recommends that AIEWs be given incentives to gain full teaching qualifications.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA look at ways of improving incentives to encourage experienced and accomplished teachers to accept appointments in schools with a high proportion of Indigenous students, and especially in remote areas.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that university schools and faculties of education address more effectively the need to provide trainee teachers with a much stronger grounding in theory and practice relating to the teaching of Indigenous children, including ESL.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that MCEETYA draw up guidelines for improved induction courses for teachers posted to schools with significant Indigenous enrolments, including those teachers who are appointed to positions during the course of a year.

Chapter Seven*Recommendation 23*

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the ANTA Act be amended to ensure that capital works funding for independent education providers goes directly to institutions.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that all governments recognise in their policies, educational structures and funding allocation, the central role that adult education providers and their programs play in Indigenous development.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that DETYA monitor and report on the impact of the changes to Abstudy to come into effect in 2000, and particularly their impact on mature age and rural and remote students.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that policy makers take into account the particular needs of Indigenous students in post-compulsory education and provide appropriate levels of support for these students.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that funding directed towards higher education institutions for the purposes of Indigenous education should be adequate to ensure effective and appropriate educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Chapter Eight*Recommendation 28*

The Committee recommends that more funding be targeted towards flexible community development and self-management schemes aimed at improving standards of health in Indigenous communities.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that relevant Commonwealth Ministers and state governments undertake immediate action through ministerial councils to coordinate programs to improve community health, including:

- identifying linkages between education and health care initiatives;
- providing maternal, baby and early childhood health care;
- teacher education to identify and deal with hearing impairments and other health issues in the classroom;
- accelerating the training of more community health workers in Indigenous communities;
- improving Indigenous access to specialist services and community health education programs;
- encouragement of community efforts to improve nutritional standards through education and community purchasing and cultivation initiatives; and
- improving provision of school based health education.

Chapter Nine*Recommendation 30*

The Committee recommends that MCEETA look at the Northern Territory Community Care Information System's potential for other parts of Australia.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that responsibility for school programs and overall administration be devolved to school communities where appropriate; that this include financial self-management; and that assistance be given to local communities in developing a culture of management accountability for decisions made in their name.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that funds under special purpose grants be provided to schools over a triennium.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that DETYA guidelines allow for flexible use of ASSPA funding to allow school communities to apply grants that fit local educational programs most appropriately.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the Minister initiate through MCEETYA a review of current processes for determining the allocation of capital works grants to schools with a substantial Indigenous enrolment.