

Queensland First Nations Education Consultative Body

Discussion paper

Why are we doing this work?

Did you know Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Queensland do not have a formal say in early years, schooling or training? Queensland does not have a representative group of First Nations Queenslanders who tells schools and government what matters most to them.

To change this, the Queensland Government is looking at supporting the establishment of an independent, community-led and managed Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Education, Education and Training Consultative Body.

South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales have consultative bodies.

In New South Wales, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members can become members of the Indigenous Education Consultative Body by joining their local regional committee or group.

In South Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples over 18 years can join the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council, which operates through eight local Aboriginal Education Advisory Groups.

In Victoria, the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association comprises eight regions that are divided based on traditional networks, with Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups in each region. The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association provides information and advice to the education and training sectors on cultural inclusion, curriculum development and effective service models for early childhood education.

What do we want to know?

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) wants to hear from First Nations children, young people and their families about their lived experiences of early childhood education, schooling and/or training and about whether they want a Queensland Consultative Body. If so, what would it look like, what should it do, and who should be involved.

Children, young people and their families can let us know what they think by writing to us, calling us or filling out our [online survey](#). Young people can answer as many or as few of the questions as they like. Children and young people and their families can also speak freely about education and training and are not limited to the questions below. Young people are also encouraged to respond in a way that suits them—written, verbal or through art.

Who should be involved?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people must have a direct say in how the consultative body will represent and work for them.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 10 to 25 years from across Queensland are invited to provide feedback.

Discussion questions

If you are at school:

1. What do you like about school?
2. What don't you like about school?
3. Have you ever not wanted to go to school? If yes, why?
4. Did you talk to anybody at school about how you felt?
5. What makes you want to go to school?
6. What could have made school better?
7. (For students in Year 9 and above) Have you had help to find training courses or things like a school-based apprenticeships? Were you interested?

If you are no longer at school:

1. Were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being respected?
2. What was your experience at school?
3. What could have made school better?
4. If you didn't complete Year 12, what were the reasons for not finishing Year 12?
5. Have you ever done a vocational education and training (e.g. TAFE) course? If so, what was your experience?
6. If you are working, how important is your school certificate and/or vocational education and training certificate to your job?

For both groups—at school or no longer at school:

If a group was formed to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people on education and training matters:

1. Who should be members of this group?
2. What do they need to focus on the most?
3. How would you make sure that your voice and other mob's voices are heard?
4. Is it important that children or young people are part of this group?
5. How should children and young people be involved (in person, online, social media) and how can we encourage young people or children to be involved?

How to participate

Children and young people have the right to participate and can participate by providing:

- written answers to the questions
- oral feedback (via phone or Zoom/Teams)
- filling out the [online survey](#)
- a video
- a poem, or
- expressing views through art.

You can email us at FNeducation@qfcc.qld.gov.au for more information.

If you are aged under 18 years, you will need consent from a parent, guardian or carer to participate. The consent form is available [here](#).

Timeframes

Please send through any feedback by 30 April 2024.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or feedback, you can email us at FNeducation@qfcc.qld.gov.au or call 3900 6020.

The QFCC has received ethics approval from Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC/24/QCHQ/105338) and meets the requirements of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023).