



Education for All

Global Action Week 24 - 30 April 2005

Thousands of Australia's Indigenous children are missing out on education to year 12 -

They deserve a FAIR GO!

Did you know that...?

- Most Australian children have access to schooling across all years, from the preparatory year to year 12.
- Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students do not have access to compulsory and post compulsory secondary schooling in their home communities.

This means that...

- In the Northern Territory, approximately 3,500 Indigenous students, mostly in remote areas, do not attend secondary school;
- The retention rate from year 10 to 12 for the Northern Territory's Indigenous students is only 45%;
- Few students in Cape York Queensland are able to access compulsory or post-compulsory secondary education and only 48% of students who enrol in year eight progress through to year 12;
- Nationally, 43.4% of Indigenous students complete year 12, compared with 74.2% of all students.

We know that...

- Full engagement in either education or employment decreases the likelihood of living in poverty;

- Most social indicators show that Indigenous people are 2 – 3 times more likely to live in poverty than non-Indigenous people;
- About 30% or 120 000 Indigenous people in Australia live below the poverty line;
- Indigenous teenagers are 3 times more likely to not be engaged in post compulsory education, training or work than non-Indigenous teenagers.

Governments at all levels need to act to ensure...

- Improved access to public secondary education for Indigenous students, particularly in remote areas; and
- Improved school to work transition programs for Indigenous students.

References

Ramsey, G (et. al.) (2003) *Future Directions for Secondary Education in the Northern Territory* from <http://www.betterschools.nt.gov.au/history/docs/report/sections> (accessed 24.03.05)

Fitzgerald, T (2001) *Cape York Justice Study* from http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/publications/documents/pdf/capeyork/02_cyjs_08.pdf (accessed 24.03.05)

Productivity Commission (2005) Report on Government Services 2005. p.B 18 from <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2005/chapter03.pdf> (accessed 24.03.05)

ATSIS (2003) *How Our Indigenous Young People are Faring* in Dusseldorp Skills Forum (2003) *How Our Young People are Faring* from http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/108/How_Young_Faring_AUG2003_0.pdf (accessed 24.03.05)