

Cultural Education Sessions 2026



Terms of service

Program summary

Our primary aim is to facilitate connections between regional schools and cultural educators, fostering cultural awareness among children while intertwining First Nations' wisdom with environmental stewardship. The Cultural Education Sessions initiative is a community cultural development program designed to forge enduring and sustainable relationships between Aboriginal artists/cultural practitioners and schools in the Northern and Yorke region. This program offers professional development opportunities for Cultural Educators, teachers, and facilitates learning outcomes through a collaborative model.

The Cultural Education Sessions pilot program addresses a crucial gap by providing schools with clarity on which Cultural Educator to engage and offers assistance in overcoming funding barriers. Its primary goal is to foster profound engagement and cultural learning among students across all year levels while cultivating enduring relationships with local cultural educators. This initiative leverages the expertise of Cultural Educator such as

Aboriginal Elders, artists, and cultural practitioners who collaborate with teachers to tackle the opportunities and challenges within the Australian Curriculum's cross-curriculum area, encompassing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.

Program overview

Cultural Education Sessions are ideally delivered over one or more terms. Prior to delivery in schools, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board undertakes extensive consultation with Cultural Educator who are local Elders, Nation Group Chairpersons and Cultural Custodians to build relationships, discuss project scope, seek permissions and be guided regarding which cultural activity, history and Dreaming stories appropriate for young people and the educator to explore in schools.

Cultural Educators and teachers map activities to be delivered to curriculum and learning outcomes. The Cultural Educators may begin by undertaking an introduction and observation session to learn about school culture and to familiarise themselves with class routines and expectations.

Terms and conditions

Roles and Responsibilities

- Clear and regular communication is established between cultural educators, schools, and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.
- School staff should foster respectful partnerships with First Nations people by understanding cultural protocols and collaborating meaningfully to ensure cultural safety.
- School staff are responsible for student behaviour management, allowing cultural educators to focus on workshop content.
- Student support officers (ASCO) may be utilized for large classes.
- Dedicated contact teachers are appointed to coordinate schedules, space allocations, feedback, and troubleshooting.
- School Staff are encouraged to contribute to initiatives like Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) and supporting whole-school efforts to create culturally safe space RAP Reconciliation action plans. A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal commitment to reconciliation. It documents how your school or early learning service will strengthen relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school/service and with the community.

Pricing

- Pricing varies based on delivery structure, activity selection, and the number of cultural educators involved.
- Northern and Yorke Landscape Board aims to design programs to fit within schools' budget allocations.
- Funding support of up to \$3,000 per school is provided where possible.
- The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board will provide funding support of up to 50% of the total cost of the Cultural

Educator service (up to \$3,000 per school). The school is liable to pay for the remaining 50% of costs. A copy of the cultural educator quote showing the total cost is a mandatory requirement.

Expansion on Engagement

- The program emphasizes real engagement over tokenistic participation.
- It goes beyond merely fulfilling requirements, focusing on meaningful and ongoing cultural education.

Next Steps

- By participating in Cultural Education Sessions 2025, schools agree to adhere to these terms and conditions.
- Any additional agreements or modifications must be agreed upon in writing by all parties involved.
- Work with your school to create or enhance a RAP, focusing on fostering respect and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Include a map of Aboriginal Nations or artwork by First Nations artists in classrooms or offices to create a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Build Relationships Gradually. Invest time in developing meaningful connections with First Nations individuals, families, and communities, showing patience and genuine interest
- Access Educational Resources. Utilize tools like the "Culturally Responsive Framework" or the "You

More information

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Can't Say That!" guide to ensure respectful engagement and appropriate language use