



Protecting Indigenous Students from Harm

A number of factors contribute to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students more vulnerable to harm.

These include ongoing intergenerational effects on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities resulting from:

- Displacement from traditional lands and communities
- Systematic break-up of families and attachment relationships between children and parents
- Violence towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Rapid, involuntary social change
- Economic, political and social disadvantage
- Lack of appropriate services and supports
- Alcohol and drug use

What schools can do

- Work co-operatively as a school community to minimise risk factors as possible and appropriate. For example, by implementing a breakfast program
- Implement a whole of school abuse prevention education program (See Student Services' fact sheet *Abuse Prevention Education*)
- Be respectful of students' cultural values and background when asking questions or seeking information
- Remember that Indigenous students may be cared for by extended family rather than immediate family, and try to make sure that you have considered their entire support network when deciding whether or not a student is at risk of harm
- Assist communication for students who speak Queensland Indigenous languages and who have limited English communication skills by arranging a professional interpreter. Call the Translating and Interpreting Service on

For further information see

www.education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices



131 450 to arrange an interpreter and quote the department's client code. Accredited translators and interpreters are available in Torres Strait Creole, Kala Lagaw Ya (KLY), Kriol, Alayawarre, Dyirbal, and Wik Mungkan.

- Where possible work towards a whole of community response to student protection.

Useful resources

Pipirri Palya: Kids are Good
Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation
www.waltja.org.au

For further information see

www.education.qld.gov.au/student-services