



Recognising the languages in a child's family and community

How to include family and community languages in a child's enrolment information

As set out in the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages statement](#), the Department of Education (the department) values and recognises the languages and ways of speaking of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and communities across Queensland. These languages are an important part of identity, culture and connection to family and Country.

Queensland is home to more than 100 distinct Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages and ways of speaking.

Many Aboriginal families and Torres Strait Islander families are multilingual. Families may use:

- a traditional language, like Wik-Mungkan, Wakka Wakka, Kalaw Lagaw Ya, or Meriam Mir
- a new language, like Yarrie Lingo, Woorie Talk, or Yumplatok
- Aboriginal English or another variety of English that may not have a name
- Standard Australian English
- a combination of these languages.

When enrolling a child, parents and carers can help us to support their children's learning and development by sharing information about the languages used in their family and community.

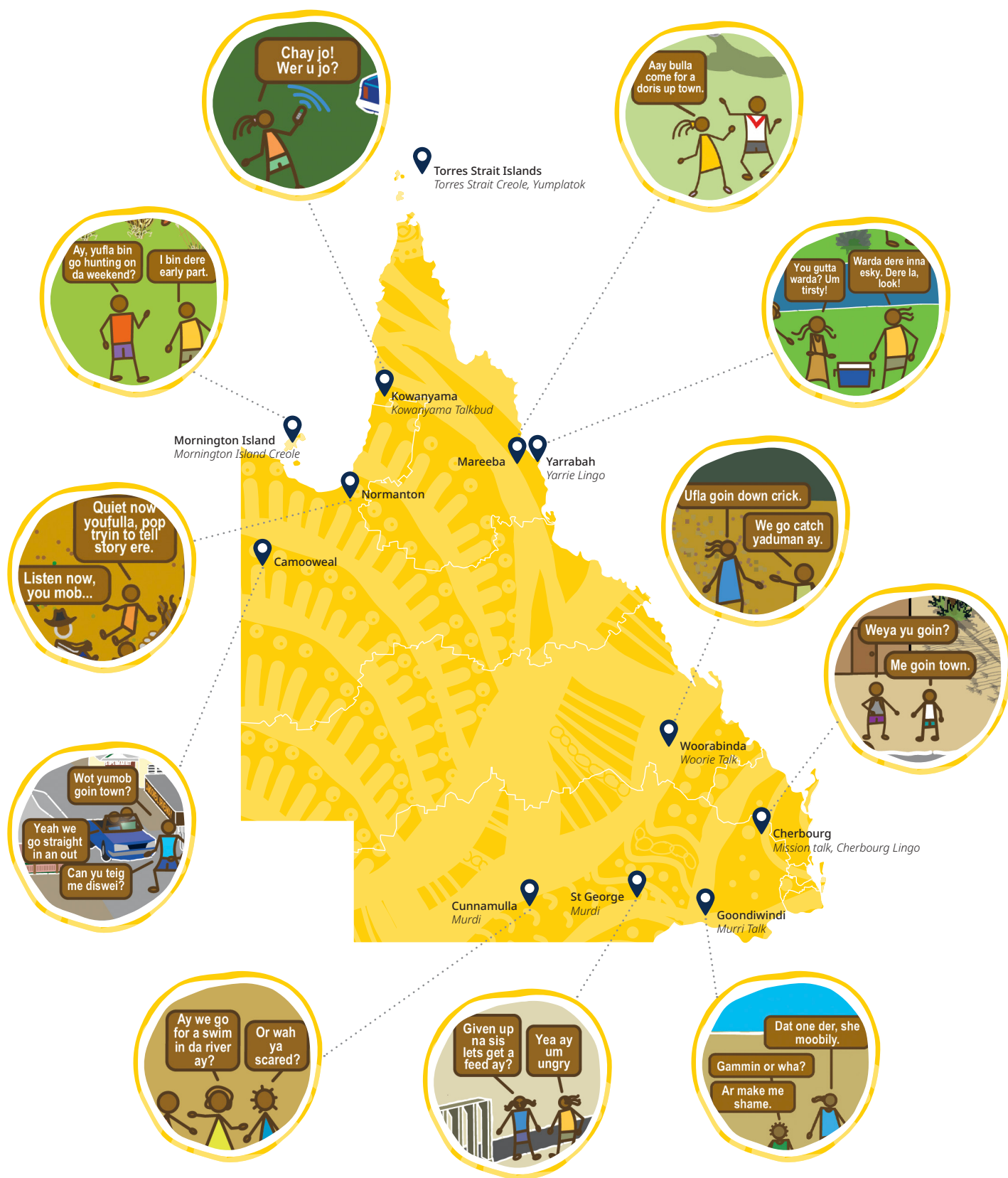
This information helps schools to:

- recognise and value a child's language background
- support a child's learning and development
- strengthen connections between home and school.

Sometimes, the language used by a family or community might not have a name. Parents and carers can still include these languages on the enrolment form if they choose, by describing it however they feel most comfortable. For example, they could write 'home language', 'Murri talk', or any other name or description they choose to use.



Some of the languages spoken across Queensland



Application for student enrolment

New enrolments

When you support a parent or carer to enrol a child at a new school, encourage them to tick the **'YES'** box in the questions about their family's languages. There are two places where they can do this: under **Family details** and under **Student information**.

The image shows two overlapping forms from the Department of Education. The top form is 'APPLICATION DETAILS' and the bottom form is 'FAMILY DETAILS (continued)'. Both forms have sections for personal information, language use, and immigration status. The 'FAMILY DETAILS' form has a section for 'PROSPECTIVE STUDENT LANGUAGE DETAILS' and 'EVIDENCE OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENT'S IMMIGRATION STATUS'.



Family details

In the **Family details** section, for both parents or carers, tick the **'Yes, other'** box and add any languages spoken at home or in the community in the space provided. There may be more than one, so make sure they include them all.

Does parent/carer 1 or parent/carer 2 speak a language other than English at home? (If more than one language, indicate the one that is spoken most often)	☐ No, English only ☒ Yes, other – please specify [insert the language spoken at home]
Needs interpreter?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Student information

In the **Prospective student language details** section, tick the **'Yes, other'** box and add any languages the child speaks at home or in the community in the space provided.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT LANGUAGE DETAILS	
Does the prospective student speak a language other than English at home?	☐ No, English only ☒ Yes, other – please specify [insert the language spoken at home]

We appreciate your support in gathering information on children and their family's languages.