

Bandscales for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learners Training – 2 Day Intensive (August 4th & 5th) + Moderation – 1 Day (Oct 22nd)



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *Bandscales for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learners* commonly referred to as the *Indigenous Bandscales*, is currently being implemented and used as a diagnostic, tracking and monitoring tool. It is used to inform planning for differentiated teaching and learning in classrooms across state, catholic and independent schools in Queensland.

Primarily the *Indigenous Bandscales* are being used in the assessment of Aboriginal students' and Torres Strait Islander students' English language development in the macro skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing for the purpose of identifying, understanding and mapping the strengths and weaknesses of the students' English language proficiency so that more accurate planning can take place for students' literacy lessons. Using the *Indigenous Bandscales* will assist teachers to improve Indigenous students' English language proficiency for the purpose of improving overall literacy outcomes and equal access to all areas of the compulsory and non-compulsory school curriculum. It is a vital tool for planning differentiated learning tasks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within whole class / subject unit plans.

The *Indigenous Bandscales* are being used effectively across the Early Years, Primary and Middle School Years. In many instances where Indigenous students enter Senior Secondary schools (Years 10-12) with low levels of English literacy, teachers use the Middle Schooling *Indigenous Bandscales* to establish English language proficiency levels. Teachers are using the tool in both mainstream and specialised learning support and in most cases the staff from both areas are working in collaboration to monitor and track Aboriginal students' and Torres Strait Islander students' English language and literacy progress.

Teachers are additionally using the *Indigenous Bandscales* as part of their regular learning screening process for new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments. Students are screened to establish English language proficiency levels when they first arrive at schools. This assists the school to identify which students require additional learning support so that literacy support measures can be established early. This process reduces the learning frustration for the newly enrolled student who, as a result can be placed in suitable classes, grades and on learning programs that will encourage success. Individual or whole school student data collected using the *Bandscales for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learners* can be used to assist schools to fulfil reporting requirements for state and federal census, individual sector reporting and applications for funding.

Teachers who have previously participated in *Indigenous Bandscales* training have been emphatic that this professional development has improved their understanding of Indigenous students' language, literacy and

socio-cultural needs. Teachers have also reported and documented improvement in students learning outcomes as a result of using this tool.

Indigenous Bandscales Training involves two intensive days in which participants will receive training in the use of the *Bandscales for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learners* as well as cultural awareness and information on recommended resources. Each participant will receive a copy of the *Bandscales for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learners* for their own use back at school.

Indigenous Bandscales Moderation Days

In addition teachers are also required to attend one follow-up *Indigenous Bandscales* Moderation Day where they will participate in professional discussions about Indigenous students' work samples to ensure that the *Indigenous Bandscales* are being used in a consistent fashion across all schools.

Course Facilitators:

RoseMarie Koppe	School Support Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ)
Claire Gorman	Manager - Indigenous Policy & Strategic Innovation Dept. Education & Training (DET)
Gail Hagar	ESL Specialist and Training Facilitator

REGISTER NOW !!!!

Indigenous Bandscales Training – 2 Day Intensive

This PD requires a commitment of 2 days

Regional Aug 4th & 5th (Tues & Wed) Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort
<https://isq.ismartsoftware.net/iRegister/Courses/ViewCourse?courseId=529>

Indigenous Bandscales Moderation Days – 1 Day

Regional Oct 22nd (Thurs) Cairns Double Tree Hilton, Cairns
<https://isq.ismartsoftware.net/iRegister/Courses/ViewCourse?courseId=601>

Should you have any difficulties registering on the ISQ i-register for any of these professional learning events please contact Jenny Brunne [Ph: 07 3228 1507]

This professional learning opportunity is open to non-ISQ member schools. However, after participating at each event the non-member's school or organisation will be billed \$25 to cover catering costs. If attending the Indigenous Bandscales training, a further \$25 will be charged to cover printing.

For further information contact:

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