



*all yours*

# Indigenous Languages Resources Ideas for School-Communities

This Information Guide has been developed to support school-communities in undertaking activities to promote and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The following is a collection of ideas and activities as well as resources related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It can support school-communities in their roles for recording, documenting and collecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It could be the starting point for developing Aboriginal language programs and other activities in your school-community.

## *Our Community Languages*

Create a space in the school for local Indigenous history, including collections of language materials, oral histories, etc. Schools and communities can work together to develop a profile of the languages in the community – this may involve community-based research.

The following questions may serve as a guide/starting point:

- What is the traditional language of the area?
- Which other language groups are represented in our community?
- Are there language speakers in our community?
- Are there traditional words still used in/by the local community?
- Can we record, collect and collate words from the community?
- How can we support community to record/document languages in the community?
- Research local/traditional language words for geographical locations, natural landmarks, etc.?
- Are there oral histories, creation stories associated with the local area or particular landmarks?

## *Suggested activities and strategies for school-communities:*

- Record/document language speakers from the local community
- Build up word lists for common/everyday things (e.g. family names, body parts, plants, animals, placenames, etc.); create a community dictionary for the local language/s
- Record/document language songs, dance, and stories relating to the local community.
- Learn greetings/farewells in the local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language.
- Promote a 'language word of the week' for use at school and in the community
- Dual signage/labels in the school-community – English and the local Indigenous language.
- Incorporate language activities into key events/displays, e.g. NAIDOC & Reconciliation Week

## **Need further information?**

(07) 3842 9836 | [kdhagun@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:kdhagun@slq.qld.gov.au)



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## School Curriculum Materials

The following list from across Australia is a snapshot of curriculum materials, educational policies/practices, etc. that relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, studies and curriculum perspectives.

### National:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is currently developing Australian Curriculum materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) – Australian Curriculum: languages: <https://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/learning-areas-subjects/languages-main>
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) – Australian Curriculum: Cross-Curriculum Priority Area – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures: <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures/>
- National Statement for Languages Education in Australian Schools: [http://www.curriculum.edu.au/leader/national\\_statement\\_for\\_languages\\_education\\_in\\_aust,13350.html?issueID=10232](http://www.curriculum.edu.au/leader/national_statement_for_languages_education_in_aust,13350.html?issueID=10232)

### Queensland:

Education Queensland and the Queensland Studies Authority have developed curriculum materials to support the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in schools.

- Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools: <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/educators/eatsips-overview.html>
- Queensland Studies Authority:
  - P-10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Syllabus: <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/12798.html>
  - Senior Syllabus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages: <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/12794.html>

### New South Wales:

In 2004 the Aboriginal Curriculum Unit in the NSW Board of Studies developed an Aboriginal Languages K–10 Syllabus to coordinate and formalise support for Aboriginal Language programs in schools.

Australian Government Quality Teacher Program (AGQTP) Literacy in Aboriginal Languages:

[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus\\_sc/pdf\\_doc/ab\\_lang\\_k10\\_support.pdf](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/pdf_doc/ab_lang_k10_support.pdf)

NSW Board of Studies:

- *Teaching Aboriginal Languages: Case Studies.* <http://ab-ed.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/aboriginal-languages/learning-from-each-school-s-experience>

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## School Curriculum Materials (continued)

### Victoria:

Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation (VCE) Study Design:  
[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/lote/ausindigenous/IndigenousSD.pdf](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/lote/ausindigenous/IndigenousSD.pdf)

### Northern Territory:

Northern Territory Education (2002) *Interim Northern Territory Curriculum Framework: Indigenous Languages and Culture Outcomes*.

- NT Curriculum Framework – Languages Learning Area:  
[https://education.nt.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/229230/Languages-Policy-Discussion-Paper-280515.pdf](https://education.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/229230/Languages-Policy-Discussion-Paper-280515.pdf)

### South Australia:

Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (1996) *Australia's Indigenous Language Framework*.

- SACSA Framework: Languages (Australian Indigenous)  
<http://www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/ATT/%7B78936E5E-921C-4086-A6B1-811F3C8E2113%7D/001%20Introduction%20-%20Context.pdf>

South Australia (1996) *Aboriginal Perspectives across the Curriculum*. South Australia Department for Education and Children Services: Adelaide.

- R-10 Languages Teaching Resource: [http://www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/ATT/%7BF51C47E3-B6F3-4765-83C3-0E27FF5DD952%7D/R-10\\_Languages\\_AI.pdf](http://www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/ATT/%7BF51C47E3-B6F3-4765-83C3-0E27FF5DD952%7D/R-10_Languages_AI.pdf)

### Tasmania:

- Aboriginal Education Strategy: <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/school-colleges/aboriginal-education-services/>

### Western Australia:

- WA Department of Education – Aboriginal Languages:  
<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculum-support/eald/detcms/navigation/english-as-an-additional-language-or-dialect-for-aboriginal-students/programs-for-aboriginal-language-speaking-students/>

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## Websites/Weblinks

The following is a selection of websites and weblinks that can support school-communities in the revival/revitalisation of Indigenous languages.

**Aboriginal Languages of Australia Virtual Library:** One of the first websites devoted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages – it has annotated links to 231 resources for about 80 languages [www.dnathan.com/VL/austLang.htm](http://www.dnathan.com/VL/austLang.htm)

**Australian Indigenous Languages (Australian National University):** Website developed by David Nash, Linguist, based at ANU – weblinks to resources, wordlists, research papers, etc. relating to Indigenous languages. [www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/nash/aust/](http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/nash/aust/)

**Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS):** AIATSIS is the premier institution in Australia and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present. They have an extensive collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language resources: print, audio-visual and digitised materials. [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)

Other sections/units in AIATSIS:

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*AIATSIS – Collections Online:* Online Exhibitions and Digitised Collections including ‘Singing the Train’ and “Dawn & The New Dawn”.  
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online>

*AIATSIS Indigenous Language Select Bibliographies:* The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra has produced PDF versions of *Select Bibliographies* that provide a list of materials held by AIATSIS relating to specific languages/language groups across Australia.  
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/language-and-people-bibliographies>

*AIATSIS – Finding your family:* AIATSIS has an extensive collection of materials that relate to family history and genealogical research  
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family>

Aboriginal Biographical Index (ABI) is a personal name index to published material held in the AIATSIS Library. <http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-biographical-index>

**Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages and Culture (FATSILC):** FATSILC is the national peak body for community based indigenous language programs in Australia. The organisation was established in 1991 in response to the Australian Language and Literacy Policy, to promote the maintenance, retrieval and revival of indigenous languages, through the support of community based language programs. [www.fatsilc.org.au](http://www.fatsilc.org.au)

**South Australian Museum: Norman B. Tindale:** Tindale was an anthropologist whose research resulted in the ‘Tindale Map’ which depicts the distribution of Aboriginal languages; Tindale also mapped out genealogical and sociological profiles for Aboriginal communities in Eastern Australia. <http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/collections/information-resources/archives-search>

**State Library of Queensland – Indigenous Languages in Queensland:** Overview of the State Library of Queensland Indigenous Languages Program to support the revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Queensland.  
<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages>

**SIL International:** SIL International is a faith-based non-profit organization committed to serving language communities worldwide as they build capacity for sustainable language development. [www.sil.org/](http://www.sil.org/)

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## Queensland Indigenous Language Centres

There are several Indigenous Language Centres in Queensland that support the revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Activities may include language research, exhibitions and community training as well as the recording and/or documentation of Indigenous languages in Queensland. Other groups such as Aboriginal Land Councils, Cultural Organisations, Elders' Groups, etc. may also be undertaking activities involving languages.

School-communities are encouraged to explore partnerships and linkages to these local Aboriginal organisations, including community-based groups. In addition to supporting community language revival, these partnerships will also have a positive impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement in school-communities.

**Central Queensland Language Centre (Bundaberg):** This centre supports language activities in Central Queensland from Rockhampton to Maryborough and west to Longreach and the NT border. **Address:** Central Queensland Language Centre, Gidjarjil Aboriginal Development Corporation Ltd, 36 Quay Street [PO Box 2773], Bundaberg. Q. 4670. **Phone:** (07) 4153 6700 **Email:** [cqlanguage.centre@gidarjil.com.au](mailto:cqlanguage.centre@gidarjil.com.au)  
**Website:** <http://www.gidarjil.com.au/>

### **Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation (Hervey Bay):**

This organisation supports Aboriginal language and cultural revival in the Hervey Bay/Wide Bay area. **Address:** 352 The Esplanade Scarness 4655. **Phone:** (07) 4124 4814 **Email:** [korra@bigpond.net.au](mailto:korra@bigpond.net.au)

### **Nalingu Aboriginal Corporation (Mitchell):**

Located at Mitchell, in South-West Queensland, Nalingu supports language and cultural revival in the Mitchell community/region. **Address:** 32 Cambridge Street Mitchell Queensland 4465. **Phone:** (07) 4623 1423 **Email:** [nalingu5@bigpond.com](mailto:nalingu5@bigpond.com)

### **North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Language Centre (Cairns):**

A partnership between Cairns and Townsville language workers, this centre supports language activities in North Queensland from Sarina to Cairns and west to Mt Isa. **Address:** PO Box 266 North Cairns Queensland 4870. **Phone:** (07) 4053 4698 or (07) 4053 6018 **Fax:** (07) 4032 3017 **Email:** [nqraclc@bigpond.com](mailto:nqraclc@bigpond.com) **Website:** <http://www.nqraclc.com.au/>

### **Pama Language Centre, (Cairns):**

Cape York Partnership supports its longstanding commitment to the revitalisation and maintenance of Cape York Peninsula's unique and precious linguistic and cultural heritage. **Phone:** 0450 961 956 **Address:** 302-310 Sheridan Street, Cairns QLD 4870  
PO Box 677, Cairns North QLD 4870  
**Email:** [KCalley@cyp.org.au](mailto:KCalley@cyp.org.au) **Website:** <http://pamalanguagecentre.org.au/>

### **Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre (Beenleigh):**

Yugambah Museum is based at Beenleigh and serves as a language and research centre for Southern Queensland. The Yugambah Museum has a library of more than 3000 books, journals, maps, audio and video tapes which are held in a reserve collection and made available to visitors at the museum. **Address:** Cnr Martens Street and Plantation Road Beenleigh Queensland 4207. **Phone:** (07) 3807 6155 or (07) 3807 6229 **Fax:** (07) 3807 6144 **Email:** [info@yugambah.com](mailto:info@yugambah.com) **Website:** [www.yugambah.com](http://www.yugambah.com)

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## Language Computer Software

The following is a suggested list of resources for schools to acquire that can support language revival in their communities – some are freeware, while others may require purchase/license.

**Audacity** is a free software program to assist language recording/audio editing. The program is easy to use and allows for manipulation/editing of sounds in a range of formats including MP3. Further details: [www.audacity.sourceforge.net/](http://www.audacity.sourceforge.net/)

**Lexique Pro** is a free Dictionary software program for making interactive lexicons or word lists; it also makes picture dictionaries and lexicons for CD's and websites. Further details: [www.lexiquepro.com/](http://www.lexiquepro.com/)

**Miromaa** is a licensed software program developed by the Arwarbukarl Cultural Resource Association Inc to aid in Aboriginal language work; the program is easy to use/user friendly. Basically, Miromaa serves as a database for the collection, analysis and documentation of languages. Further details: [www.miromaa.org.au](http://www.miromaa.org.au)

**Microsoft Software:** there is a range of Microsoft programs that can be utilised to support language revival – most of these programs are installed as part of Windows-based PC operating systems. Further details: [www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/default.aspx)

- Word
- Publisher
- PowerPoint
- PhotoStory - download from Microsoft
- MovieMaker - comes with Windows XP onwards

These software programs in conjunction with a quality digital recording microphone and digital camera can enhance the capacity of schools and communities to collect, record and document Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Training in these software programs and equipment is recommended to gain the maximum benefit – the State Library of Queensland may be able to assist in conducting/facilitating training for school staff and community members.

## Further Details

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

**kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland**

Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

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[SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages](#)

[SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog](#)

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