



## **RATEP: Delivering Teacher Education to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples Across Queensland**

TAFE Qld North Version 10 (28.8.15)

RATEP is a community-based teacher education program that aims to increase the pool of registered Indigenous teachers and Indigenous paraprofessionals in Queensland. RATEP achieves this aim through the delivery of courses to Indigenous peoples living in their home communities and towns.

RATEP is a joint initiative of TAFE Queensland North (Cairns campus), DET through their State Schools division and James Cook University (JCU). Representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities across Queensland also form an integral element in the partnership: through their initial and ongoing support for each RATEP site; sitting on various advisory committees for the development and implementation of the courses and their work on the overall state RATEP Management Committee (which coordinates the partnership).

RATEP celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2015 and currently has 15 sites spread throughout Queensland; from Bamaga in the far north, to Maryborough in the south, to Mt Isa in the west, as well as an 'off-site'/distance learning model servicing other communities and towns throughout the state.

Under the RATEP partnership, the following courses are currently on offer:

- Certificate III in Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) – offered to high school students in Years 11 & 12 over a two year period as part of their senior studies and providing 8 points towards the Queensland Certificate of Education.
- Certificate IV in Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) – part time studies of 18 hours per week (late March – November) for adult students.
- Diploma of Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) – full time studies over a year at 25 hours per week and part time studies of approximately 12 hours per week over two years.
- Bachelor of Education (General Primary).

Completion of the Certificate and Diploma courses provides qualifications at Teacher's Aide/Assistant (TA) level, and several sites have special arrangements in place for TAs to complete the Certificate IV course while working in schools. Also, Diploma graduates may progress to the second year of the Bachelor of Education degree with JCU either on campus or via a RATEP site. Alternatively, they are able to complete their degree studies via the relatively new RATEP offsite/distance learning model which is available from anywhere in Queensland.

Training is delivered to students by DETE's State School employed Teacher Coordinators (TCs), and supported by delivery of instructional materials and technology by TAFE Queensland North teachers and JCU lecturers. The majority of RATEP sites are attached to primary schools.

Since its inception in 1990, RATEP has been highly regarded for its successful cross-institutional and community collaborations. No other program for rural, remote and regional living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland has resulted in such a sustained number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary graduates and qualified paraprofessionals. To date, James Cook University has produced close to 200 degree graduates through RATEP. Over the same time-frame, TAFE Queensland North has graduated over a thousand students in the Certificates III and IV in Education, as well as the Diploma of Education which articulates into the Bachelor of Education degree.

For further information, contact your local RATEP site, TAFE Queensland North RATEP in Cairns on tel: 1300 656 959 or James Cook University in Townsville on tel: 1800 246 446.

