

RATEP

COMMUNITY-BASED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

DELIVERING TEACHER EDUCATION TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE ACROSS QUEENSLAND

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

RATEP is a joint initiative of TAFE Queensland North (Cairns campus), the Queensland Education Department (QED) 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 program.

RATEP celebrated its 25th year of operation in 2015 and currently has 13 sites located throughout Queensland; from Bamaga in the far north, to Maryborough in the south, to Mount 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 by TAFE Queensland North Region:

- > **Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education** (10751NAT) – offered to high school students in Years 11 & 12 over two years as part of their senior studies and providing 8 points towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. Also offered to adult learners over one year full time or two years part time.
- > **Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education** (10752NAT) – offered part time from March to November.
- > **Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education** (10753NAT) – offered full time over one year or part time over 18 months starting in July.
- > **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care** (CHC30113) – Offered part time at designated locations with numerous start dates throughout the year.
- > **Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care** (CHC50113) – Offered part time at designated locations with numerous start dates throughout the year.

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 courses 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 RATEP offsite/distance learning model which is available from anywhere in Queensland.

Training for the Diploma and Certificate courses is delivered by TAFE Queensland North Region teachers and supported by QED Teacher Coordinators (TCs). All courses incorporate paper-based and online material and the majority of RATEP sites are attached to QED state 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 graduates through RATEP. Over the same time frame, TAFE Queensland North Region has provided qualifications to over 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with Certificates III and IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education (10751NAT, 10752NAT), Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC30113) and as well as the Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education (10753NAT) which articulates into James Cook University's Bachelor of Education degree.

For further information contact RATEP at TAFE Queensland Cairns campus on 1300 308 233

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