

# Aboriginal Advisory Body Communiqué 8

Meeting 8, 13 November 2025

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The Aboriginal Advisory Body (AAB) held its third meeting of 2025 on 13 November 2025. The AAB continues to prioritise the empowerment of Aboriginal people, the success of Aboriginal students in culturally responsive school environments and shared decision-making with Aboriginal staff, families and communities.

The meeting highlighted insights and discussions into key areas including:

## **Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework - refresh**

The Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework was first developed in 2015, and engagement is underway across the Department to refresh the Framework. Significant consultation has ensured the Framework is Aboriginal-led and reflects the voice of communities across remote, regional and metropolitan areas. Acknowledgement has been given to the Framework being a continuum of work within schools to be developed in partnership with Aboriginal students, family and community.

## **Aboriginal workforce update**

Support for the Aboriginal workforce is a key pillar and priority for the Department. An Aboriginal Workforce Strategy is planned to ensure the development of current and future roles for Aboriginal staff, both within schools and across the system. The Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer career pathways program continues to be progressed in schools and professional learning is being developed to support this.

## **Strategic priorities update**

Consultation around strategic priorities for the Department has continued, with a focus on cultural responsiveness and Aboriginal student outcomes. A focus has been on workforce development including employee pathways for Aboriginal people and in upskilling principals and staff to make cultural responsiveness everyone's business. Building school-community partnerships continues to be a priority, with an emphasis on a whole-of-school approach.

## **World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education**

The World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education was held in Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland from 16 to 20 November. The theme was 'Indigenous education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and is a major international event for educators. The Department was represented by staff from across the State, who will share insights and learnings from the conference with their schools and community.

Meeting dates for 2026 are in the process of being set.