

2008 – TOUCHING THE FUTURE: BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK

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Title

Indigenous education, imagining the future - the role of educators (https://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1023&context=research_conference_2008) (http://www.acer.edu.au)

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Abstract

Indigenous education has long been a focal point for educators. From the reviews of the mid-1980s, policy development in the late 1980s and since, Indigenous education has long challenged educators. The continued relevancy of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy, developed in 1989, demonstrates that improved outcomes in Indigenous education continues to be a goal beyond the reach of communities, education systems and governments. This paper discusses the policies underpinning Indigenous education and the challenges that continue to face educators. The new Council of Australian Government commitments provide educators with a renewed challenge. This paper also identifies outcomes in Indigenous education and explores what some systems and communities are doing to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous people. The paper also recognises that ultimately the achievement of improved education outcomes for Indigenous people is a responsibility shared by all stakeholders and that the role of educator belongs to parents, families, communities, teachers and administrators. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we stand on today and elders, past and present. As an Indigenous Australian from southern Australia, I also bring greetings from my communities.

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