

Seminar 4: Department of Education & Training (Koorie Outcomes Division) + Victorian Aboriginal Education Association



Education
and Training



Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

www.vaeai.org.au

SEMINAR 4:

Guest speakers:

Janette Kennedy: **Manager Participation, Transitions &
Inclusions Projects- Koorie Outcome Division
Department of Education & Training**

Kim Powell: **Early Years Coordinator
Victorian Aboriginal Education Association**

Angie-Lee Bamblett: **Business Services Coordinator
Victorian Aboriginal Education Association**

Moderator: **AJ Williams-Tchen Mentor
Cultural Mentor: Girraway Ganyi Consultancy**



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Kim Powell

Angie-Lee Bamblett

VAEAI

- **The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association was first established in 1976 as the Victorian Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (VAECG). The shared aim of the VAECG was to increase the presence and voice of Koorie people in education and decision making.**
- **In the early years of VAEAI representatives from Koorie communities across Victoria came together to build an advocacy voice.**
- **Today VAEAI represents the Koorie Community in relation to education policy development and strategic programming at the local, state and national levels. We support the provision of education and training that reinforces our community's cultural identity and increases awareness in the wider community of Koorie culture and aspirations in education and training.**

VAEAI

- **As an organisation, we have been pushing and fighting for over 40 years, for a holistic education system that genuinely and authentically reflects and respects our prime place in this nation's history and culture. And for our rights to be actively involved in decisions that affect our communities' education and training outcomes as First Nations Peoples.**
- **We formed, over 40 years ago, because of the extremely poor education outcomes for our Koorie communities, due to the complete lack of cultural understandings in schools, to make a change.**
- **Koorie communities needed and still need structural and systemic change, to better the educational outcomes of Koorie students, to close the Gap in educational outcomes, and to create a first-class educational environment for all students.**

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VAEAI

- **Aboriginal Languages Education into schools**
- **School Readiness Funding**
- **PD Education Sessions: (go to Facebook)**
- **Victorian Resources (go to VEAI Website)**



VAEAI

www.vaeai.org.au

Association of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies (AGECS)

Koorie Outcomes Division
Department of Education and Training

5th April 2022



Education
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- There are **47,788 Aboriginal people living in Victoria*** representing 0.8% of the Victorian population
- **Median age is 23** (37 for non-Aboriginal people)*
- **Children aged 0-14 years** represent 33.2% of Victorian Koorie community
- In 2019, there were:
 - ❑ **1,576 Aboriginal children** attending a **four-year-old kindergarten** (of 79,505 total children)
 - ❑ **952 Aboriginal children** attending a **three-year-old kindergarten** (of 2571 total children)
- In 2020, from 1543 government schools, Aboriginal students were dispersed across 1360 schools

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria



*2016 Census



Marrung, Aboriginal Education Plan (2016-2026)

Vision

'Victoria will be a state where the **rich and thriving** culture, knowledge and experience of First Nations peoples are **celebrated by all Victorians**;

where our **universal services** systems are **inclusive, responsive and respectful** of Koorie peoples at every stage of their learning and development journey;

and where every **Koorie person achieves their potential**, succeeds in life and feels **strong in their cultural identity.**'

Strength of Marrung is its genuine partnership between government and the Koorie community

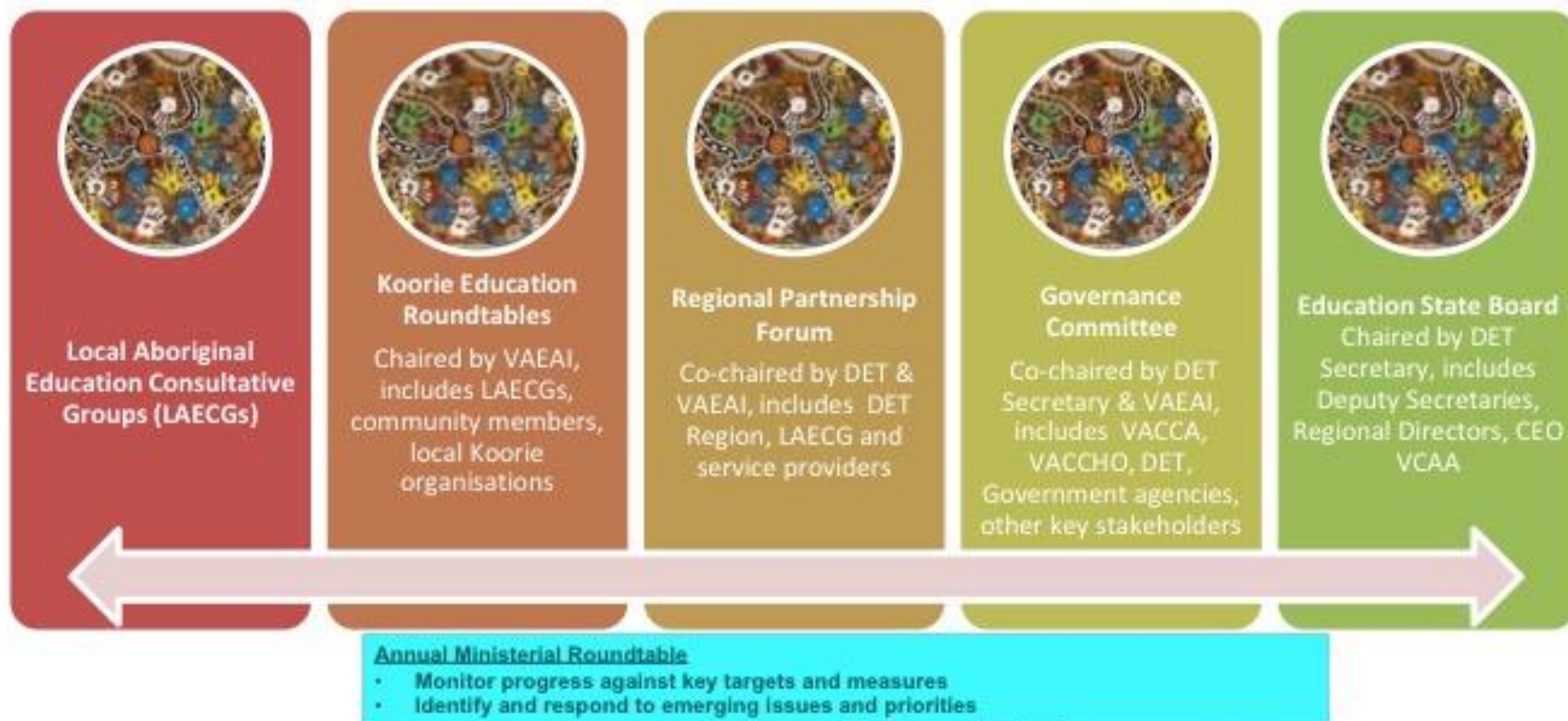
The Victorian Self Determination Reform Framework (2019) and the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023 outline the principles of self-determination agreed with community, that all government agencies adopt.



The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) is the **peak organisation for Koorie Education in Victoria** and the principle partner of the Department in Koorie Education, **bringing community voice to decision-making.**



Marrung Governance Structure



The outcomes we want in Marrung

Key System Enablers		
Positive climate for learning & development	Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koorie children and learners of all ages are strong in their identity within all services All Victorians understand and respect Koorie culture and history 	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve the cultural inclusivity of service providers We will support sectors to enhance learners' understanding of Koorie culture and history
Community engagement in learning & development	Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services and Koorie communities work together on local, place-based approaches to improving learning outcomes 	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase opportunities for Koorie people to participate in decision making that affects them
A culture of professional leadership	Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Success for Koorie Victorians is core business for all educational leaders 	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will further develop our leaders in the early childhood, schools and VET sectors

The Education State reform agenda coincided with a strengthened commitment by the Victorian Government to Aboriginal-led decision making



Marrung Principle:

We will empower Koorie communities to become equal partners in early childhood, drawing upon local knowledge and expertise to inform local, place-based action.

Embedding Marrung principles

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework cultural knowledge story, developed by Dr Sue Lopez Atkinson (Yorta Yorta) and artist Annette Sax (Taungurung), illustrates the link between the framework's elements: Learning and Development Outcomes, Practice Principles and Transitions.



School Readiness Funding

Extra support for funded kindergarten programs to help children to get the most out of their early learning. SRF is a permanent and ongoing part of the Victorian kindergarten funding model. It funds a range of programs and supports that aim to build the capacity of services, educators and families to support children's learning and development in priority areas:

- communication (language development)
- wellbeing (social and emotional)
- access and inclusion.



Child at the centre surrounded by kin, family and those professionals supporting learning and development, health and wellbeing.

Koorie Kids Shine



Koorie Kids Shine

Up to 15 hours of free
kindergarten per week



Koorie Kids Shine is a campaign program promoting the importance of kindergarten and continued access to 15 hours of free kindergarten each week for Aboriginal children through Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) and Kindergarten Fee Subsidy.

The Koorie Kids Shine artwork was created in 2017 and has provided a foundation for the recognition of the program across Victoria.

A new design by **Kamara Morgan**, a proud Yorta-Yorta, GunaiKurnai, Dja Dja Wurrung, Boonwurrung, Taungurung and Baraparapa Aboriginal Artist specialising in contemporary Aboriginal Art will support the campaign from 2022. This new artwork retains continuity with the original design with a fresh approach.



Acknowledging the work of the DET Koorie Education Workforce

DET Koorie Education Workforce – approx. 140 positions state-wide:

- **Koorie Education Coordinators** (KECs) located across the state manage teams of **Koorie Engagement Support Officers** (KESOs) who provide strategic advice to teachers, school leaders, and multi-disciplinary area teams. **A number of KESO roles are focused on early childhood.**
- **Koorie Education Managers** provide expert leadership and develop a high profile for the implementation of Marrung in regions. They provide strategic leadership in Regions on matters relating to Koorie education.



COVID outreach support for Aboriginal children and their families

VAEI Koorie Outreach Support Program

The 2020 VAEI launched the Koorie Outreach Support Program to empower the community to overcome challenges brought about by COVID-19 and support Koorie learners during remote learning and with transitioning back to learning environments when safe to do so.

The Koorie Outreach Support Program employed six Outreach facilitators and provided a holistic approach supported by the Victorian State Government, Department of Education and Training and the Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The Program aimed to assess the needs, with a particular emphasis on the learning needs, of Koorie learners and families within Victoria. Facilitators made social and educational referrals to support families and learners in Early Years; Primary, Secondary, VCAL, VET, TAFE, University, and Adult Education.

The KOSP successfully supported students with access to resources to learn from home, referral to mental health, tutoring, disability support and with cultural connection.



DET Funding of Outreach Workers

Between January 2021 and August 2021, funding was provided for a limited number of skilled and qualified Outreach workers for six months in response to disrupted learning experienced during COVID-19. Following an expression of interest process, 16 kindergartens were offered funding to engage an Outreach worker.

Services that successfully recruited an Outreach worker have reported positive impacts, with efforts focused on:

- Building or enhancing existing collaborative networks
- Identifying children who are eligible for kinder not currently enrolled
- Identifying and contacting families/carers of children who require support to engage and participate in kindergarten
- Building rapport and trust with families/carers
- Identifying and addressing barriers to access and participation
- Building the capacity of kindergarten teachers and staff

Marrung is making a difference, with the focus on early childhood having demonstrable impact on outcomes in the early years of schooling

Between 2014 and 2019

- The **proportion of Koorie children enrolled in kindergarten** in the year before school **increased** from **70% to 99.9%**.
- It now **exceeds the non-Koorie participation rate**.

KINDERGARTEN PARTICIPATION



*figures are for participation in Early Start Kindergarten/Access to Early Learning

*preliminary data for 2019 indicates 4 year old kindergarten participation was 99.9%

While there is a strong upward trend in Aboriginal participation, single year data should be interpreted with care as small inaccuracies in the population estimate can have an exaggerated effect on rates due to low Aboriginal population

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

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Thank you



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THANKYOU



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Girraway Ganyi
CONSULTANCY

AGECS