

Seminar 7:

Engaging your Koorie Inclusion Heroes -

Koorie Workforce



Education
and Training



Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

www.vaeai.org.au

SEMINAR 7:

Guest speakers:

Zoe Upton:

**Koorie Education Co-ordinator
Department of Education & Training**

Moderator:

AJ Williams-Tchen

**Cultural Mentor:
Girraway Ganyi Consultancy**

Acknowledgement of Country



Annette Sax (Taungurung) 2016

The purpose of today's network

- To reflect on current cultural inclusion practices
- Identify gaps there may be in knowledge current programs and practice
- Planning what you can do next and making a commitment to embed cultural inclusion in your Early Childhood Service.

VEYLDF Identity Outcome: Children feel recognised and respected for who they are.

MARRUNG

ABORIGINAL
EDUCATION PLAN
2016 - 2026

THE
EDUCATION
STATE

VICTORIA
State
Government



Acknowledgement of Country

Lets reflect on your services current Acknowledgements of Country

Is it personalised to your Country?

Does it reflect the values of your service?

How do you practice this at your service?

MARRUNG

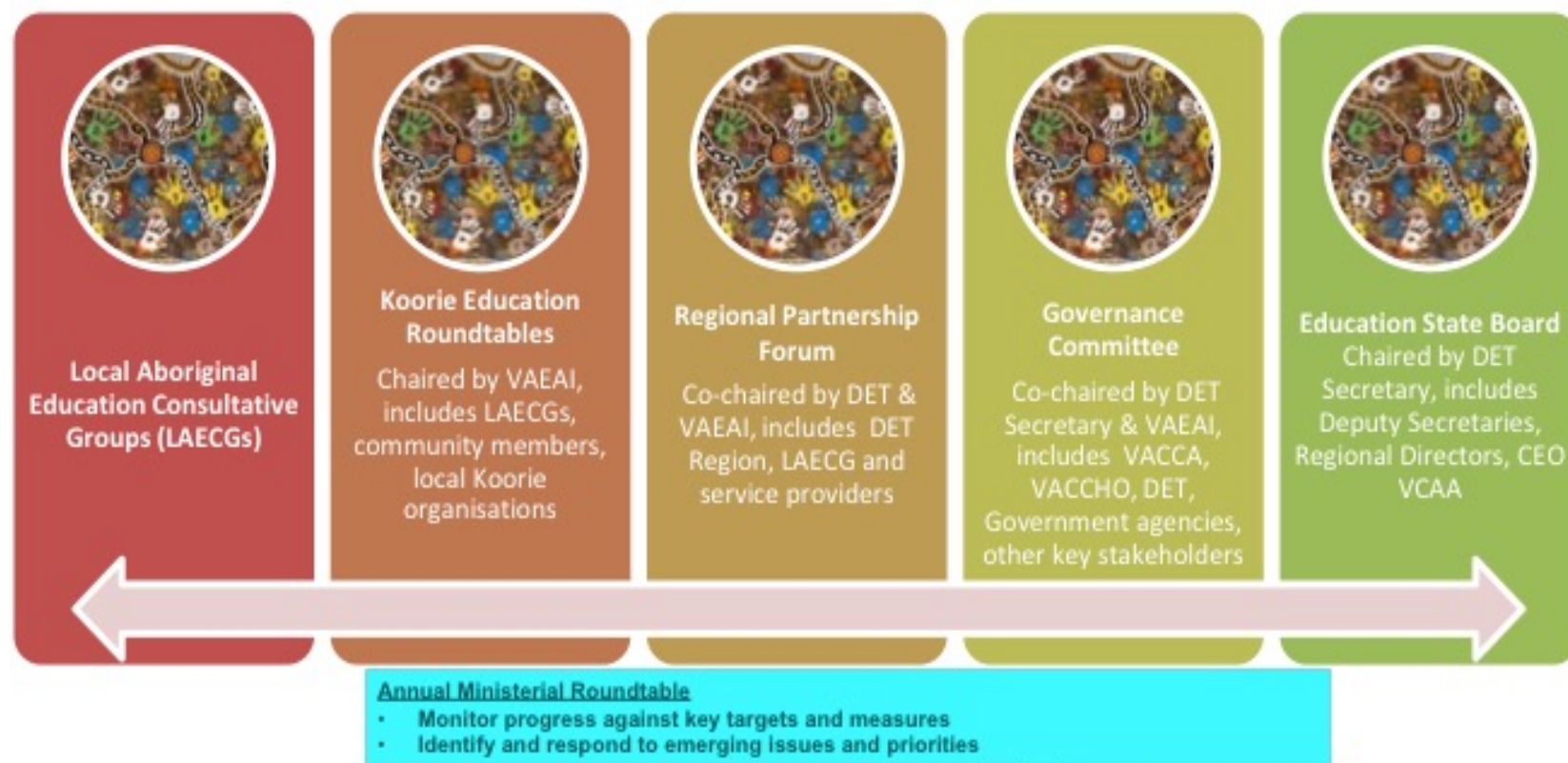
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Marrung Governance Structure



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 servicesAll Victorians understand and respect Koorie culture and history	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none">We will improve the cultural inclusivity of service providersWe 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.

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:

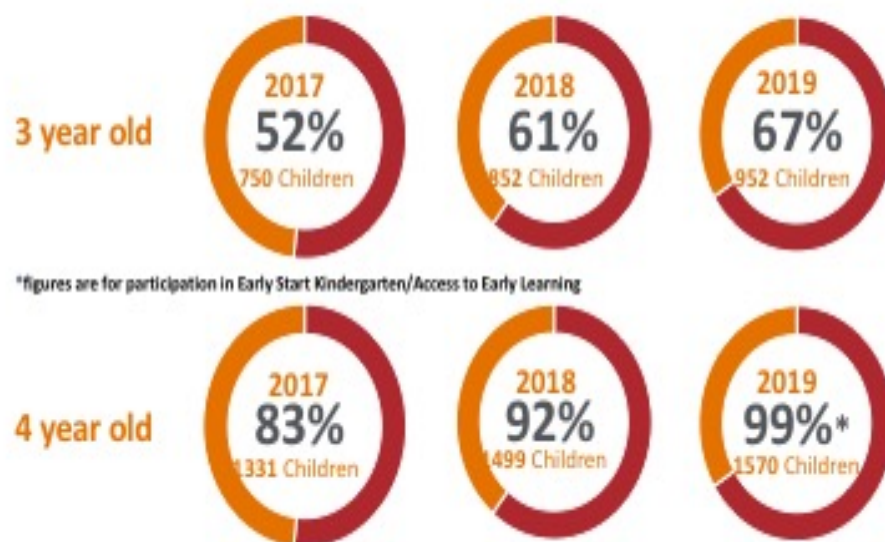
- Building or enhancing existing collaborative networks
- Identifying children who are eligible for kinder not currently enrolled
- Identifying and contacting families/carers of children who require support to engage and participate in kindergarten
- Building rapport and trust with families/carers
-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



Girraway Ganyi

CONSULTANCY

AGECS