

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Position established in 1986, based in Sydney

- Federation's Aboriginal representative on/to:
  - Australian Education Union (AEU) Federal Executive and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Yalukit Yulendj Committee
  - Department of Education Aboriginal Advisory Committee
  - NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
  - various state and national conferences and committees
- Coordinates Federation's Aboriginal Members Conference and Committees
- Networks and liaises with all Federation Councillors and members
- Connects with Aboriginal Education agencies and universities

## ABORIGINAL MEMBERS ROLL

- More than 1500 active members
- As a financial Aboriginal member, you are encouraged to get involved at all levels of Federation



## FEDERATION'S ABORIGINAL EDUCATION POLICY

- Federation's 1999 Annual Conference endorsed its first Aboriginal education policy
- Federation continues to lead the way in Aboriginal education with its policy publication *25 Year Approach – The Way Forward*

# Our union's commitment: Aboriginal education, uniting us all

## ABORIGINAL COUNCILLORS (2-YEAR TERM)

- Elected from the Aboriginal Members Roll
- Six designated positions on State Council
- Attend Annual Conference

## ABORIGINAL OBSERVER

- Attends Executive
- From the Aboriginal Members Roll
- Able to attend State Council and Annual Conference

## AS A FINANCIAL MEMBER YOU CAN APPLY TO ATTEND:

- Federation's Annual Conference, held in Sydney
- Women's Conference, held in Sydney
- Anna Stewart Program, held in Sydney
- Trade Union Training courses and seminars
- Centre for Professional Learning courses and conferences

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION RESTRICTED COMMITTEE

- Six members, three **must** be from the Aboriginal Members Roll
- Meets once per school term

## ABORIGINAL MEMBERS COMMITTEE

- Representatives from city, country and post-schools
- Meets once per school term

## ABORIGINAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

- Federation has a designated Aboriginal position on Executive
- Must be one of the six designated Aboriginal Councillors

## ANNUAL ABORIGINAL MEMBERS CONFERENCE

- Open to all financial Aboriginal members
- Aboriginal future teachers within the Sydney region are welcome

# ULURU

## *Statement from the Heart*

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented

rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



Federation is proud to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the campaign for reform.

In 2017, more than 250 Indigenous delegates met near Uluru in May to talk about changes to Australia's Constitution.

At 12 regional talks around the country before the Uluru meeting delegates discussed five possible changes: to acknowledge Indigenous peoples in the Constitution, to give them a voice to Parliament, to change the 'race power' so governments can't use it to cause harm, to ban racial discrimination, and treaty.

At Uluru, the delegates agreed on three priorities — a voice to Parliament, treaty and truth-telling. They also considered a roadmap to get to these goals.

