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2011 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) today released the 2011 Annual Report for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014.

The Action Plan developed by the Standing Council commits governments to a collective approach to Closing the Gap in education outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

“This report reinforces the value of the Action Plan, which enshrines the commitment by all Australian governments to reforming schooling and early childhood education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,” said the outgoing Chair of SCSEEC, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC.

All States and Territories and the Australian Government have contributed to the development of the 2011 Annual Report, which details progress against 55 key actions under the Action Plan.

The 2011 Annual Report is more comprehensive than the previous year’s report in that it includes details of innovative systemic and local actions across every jurisdiction. Examples of key initiatives by some States and Territories include:

- community programs targeting parental support, early years English literacy, motor skills and nutrition
- supporting caregivers as their child’s first, ongoing and often most influential teachers through home visits
- mobilising key education and welfare agencies in the provision of coordinated support for young parents to continue with their education
- developing tools for measuring student connectedness with the school population, teaching staff and the local community as a means of identifying students at risk of non-attendance
- introducing scholarships for students in Years 11 and 12 intending to study teaching.

“The release of this report continues to deliver on the commitment by SCSEEC to publicly report on the progress of these important initiatives. Ministers use this information to enhance education strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students,” said Minister Collier.

Initiatives reported in the 2011 Annual Report complement the commitments made by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). These include halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy by 2018, and halving the gap in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020.

The 2011 Annual Report can be found online at www.scseec.edu.au.

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