

TRAINING:

How is it working for Indigenous students? A new national survey is underway

What individual, community and economic benefits do Indigenous people get from training?

What encourages Indigenous Australians to start and stay in training?

A new survey of Indigenous students looks at these questions.

From June to August 2004, a team of interviewers will visit 63 locations across Australia, ranging from major cities to very remote areas, and stretching from Thursday Island in the north to Hobart in the south, and from Tweed Heads in the east to Carnarvon in the west.

About 1 000 Indigenous students who did some training in 2003 will be interviewed on their experiences. Fieldwork starts in New South Wales on 24 June, with a progressive roll-out to other states and the Northern Territory over the following weeks.

Indigenous students will be asked about:

- their reasons for training
- what benefits they get from training (in a wide sense, not just employment)
- how they rate the quality of their training
- what they are doing after training
- their participation in, and perceptions of, Community Development Employment Programs (CDEP).

This will be the first time national information like this has been collected on a large scale. The results from this project will be used to improve the training available to Indigenous people.

The survey has been developed with help from a special advisory group from Indigenous and other organisations. It is being conducted for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) by Cultural Perspectives, an organisation with extensive experience in Indigenous research, with interviews being undertaken by I-View, a large data collection company.

Many Indigenous people will gain valuable experience by working on this project as local liaison officers, interviewers, and interpreters/translators. Those who work as interviewers will receive accreditation to work on other research projects. There will also be an Indigenous Research Fellowship to assist in the analysis, interpretation and communication of survey information.

The main results of this study will be available in the first half of 2005. As well as being published in reports, findings will be provided to local communities.

The survey is part of the *Indigenous Australians in vocational education and training: National research strategy for 2003–2006*, funded by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and developed by NCVER and the Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council of the ANTA Board (AITAC).

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WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Regions*

- Major cities
- Inner regional
- Outer regional
- Remote
- Very remote



* Based on Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Armidale
Bourke
Brewarrina
Broken Hill
Coonamble
Forster
Kempsey
Lake Cargelligo
Narromine
Newcastle
Nowra
Sydney
Tamworth
Tweed Heads
Wagga Wagga
Wellington
Wollongong

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alice Springs
Barunga
Batchelor
Darwin
Galiwinku
Hermannsburg
Jabiru
Katherine
Oenpelli
Palmerston
Santa Teresa
Tennant Creek
Yirrkala

VICTORIA

Ballarat
Melbourne
Mildura
Shepparton

QUEENSLAND

Bowen
Brisbane
Cairns
Gladstone
Mount Isa
Palm Island
Rockhampton
Roma
St George
Thursday Island
Toowoomba
Townsville
Weipa

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide
Coober Pedy
Murray Bridge
Port Augusta
Port Lincoln

TASMANIA

Burnie
Hobart

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany
Carnarvon
Derby
Fitzroy Crossing
Halls Creek
Kalgoorlie
Meekathara
Northam
Perth