



11 April, 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Ahead of the upcoming federal election, First Nations educators are putting their priorities on the table at the annual meeting of Utyerre Apanpe* (National First Nations Educators' Network) in Central Australia.

This national network of First Nations educators and cultural professors met this week to progress the First Nations Education Reform agenda started in 2019. The group is calling for a First Nations-led education system in line with Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The network includes educators from over 20 different languages and Nations across Australia. They have a message for the new federal government to be formed after the 21 May election:

"This is our voice as First Nations educators. We have been raising our voices for over 50 years. We now want you to listen to us. We also want action. The current education system does not work for our children. It is hurting our children. We want our communities to run our education through our law, culture and language. We have our education system and we want this recognised by the Government. We do not want to wait another 50 years.

Australia has many languages and many Nations. In every homeland, in every community, we want to see our education come back to life and we want it run by our people. It is time that the Australian Government establishes laws and funding for our education system. Utyerre Apanpe invites the Government to sit down with us. We have a national plan and framework. We ask the Australian people to support this plan and investment for the future for our next generations.

The Government spends millions of dollars on our kids going to prisons, kids going into care and kids in hospital. We feel this pain and we still wait for our voices to be heard. We want investment in our educational systems. We are the educational leaders from many First Nations and many languages. We have one plan for the future for all of our children. We are one voice."

CONTACT:

Stacey Campton, First Nations woman and Director of Strategy and Development at Children's Ground
stacey.campton@childrensground.org.au | 0414 426 711

Ash Steel, Communications Coordinator at Children's Ground
ashleigh.steel@childrensground.org.au | 0438 229 304

About Utyerre Apanpe (First Nations Educators' Network)

Utyerre Apanpe is a vehicle for change – it aims to establish First Nations educational systems across Australia. The Utyerre Apanpe forums allow First Nations educators to network and share First Nations pedagogy, curriculum, standards and practices in education underpinned by culture, language and country. Coming together through Utyerre Apanpe allows our experienced educators from many nations to join their voices and vision together and support each other to achieve the change they have been seeking for 50 years. *"These gatherings are for our professional, cultural, familial and personal development. They provide nourishment in the knowledge we own and share through our kinship systems and cultural responsibilities."* In 2022 we were able to meet face-to-face again in Central Australia. We gathered this week to reconnect as professional educators and confirm the roadmap and framework for a National Reform (named the MK Turner Review), developed in response to the Gonski Review 2.0.

As national leaders in the delivery of First Cultural education reform, [Children's Ground](#) is the network coordinator.

*Utyerre Apanpe pronounced (oo-cherra a-parn-pa) are Arrernte words describing the relationship and connection between people and land everywhere; {Turner M.K. (2010)}