



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **Education must be designed by our communities, and delivered by our communities**

In conclusion to the [6<sup>th</sup> Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Education Forum](#), over 90 First Nations educators and senior leaders from across Australia have delivered a statement on the obstacles faced by First Nations children in education, and the critical need for a national First Nations education system.

“We invite all levels of government to work with us, in collaboration to make changes we know are needed,” they said.

“The government education system is failing our children. It is affecting our wellbeing and our spirits. It is keeping us in the cycle of trauma and it continues to keep our children traumatised.”

“The Minister for Education Jason Clare has himself recognised the serious problems in the education system. In response to the recent NAPLAN results he said ‘your chances in life shouldn’t depend on your parents’ pay packet or the colour of your skin, but these results again show that’s still the case. These results show why serious reform is needed.’”

“It is time for accountability. We call on Minister Clare and State and Territory Ministers to listen to us.”

“We call on Australian Governments to implement all the recommendations of [The M.K Turner Report](#). The report offers six recommendations and outcomes to Australian governments. The key recommendation is for Australian governments to commit to the establishment of a new First Nations education system. This is our roadmap to educational reform and reversal of the detrimental effects of the assimilation policy. We know that this is the solution for the future of education for our children.”

“Our communities want real educational reform. We are not talking about reform of the mainstream system. We want to re-establish our own systems of Education and for these to be recognised and supported across the country. It will take courage and a sustained commitment over a number of decades.”

“If the Government is committed to cultural safety and cultural curriculum then it is time they gave real control to us, and it is time they provided the funding so that we can run, control, deliver and set the curriculum and standards for our children, and young men and women’s education.”

“We want our children and young people to grow up in a system of education that honours their culture and identity, which provides the love, care, respect and support, that they need to succeed. We have the answers the government is looking for.”

Read the [full statement here](#).

**END**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Education Forum took place from 28-30 August 2024 at Desert Knowledge Australia, Mparntwe.

Utyerre Apanpe is a vehicle for change in establishing a national First Nations Educational System. Utyerre Apanpe is a network of people and a forum to speak about reforming the education system, setting standards, and supporting a formal workforce and network of First Nations educators across Australia.

In February 2024, Utyerre Apanpe [delivered The M.K. Turner Report](#) at Parliament House, Canberra.

Utyerre Apanpe (Arrente word meaning connection, ties and strings back to the land; pronounced Oo-chera – a-pun-pa).

---