



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **First Nations educators gather in Garramilla to shape the future of learning**

Next week more than sixty First Nations educators representing over twenty Nations and language groups will gather in Garramilla (Darwin) for the annual Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators Forum.

Hosted on Larrakia Country from 24-25 August, Utyerre Apanpe brings together Elders, cultural professors, senior educators and emerging leaders to shape and advance a national First Nations-led education system in Australia.

Now in its seventh year, the Forum provides a national platform for educators to share knowledge and practice, strengthen language and cultural learning and progress national reforms outlined in the [M.K. Turner Report](#). This landmark blueprint offers governments six recommendations for reform, calling for the establishment of a First Nations-led education system as the key to reversing the failure of mainstream schooling, and creating a future where all children grow strong in identity, language and culture.

The 2025 Forum will focus on:

- advancing a national learning pathway for First Nations children, grounded in cultural authority and designed by Elders
- strengthening a national body of First Nations educators to guide cultural and professional standards
- building the steps towards an independent Utyerre Apanpe governance structure with long-term funding

Educators will also share practice across Nations, reflect on the international context for Indigenous education reform and work on strategies for curriculum design, workforce development and cultural protection.

**Quote attributable to Jo Wilmott OAM, Wakka Wakka woman and member of the Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators Network:**

“Our children prosper when their learning begins in the spirit and vision of our ancestors, who carried lore and culture through the essence of language and expression. This spirit endures in us, shaping how we teach and how we learn. It is our cultural responsibility to uphold this legacy, ensuring First Nations knowledge and practice remain the foundation of education.

Through the strength of our collective voice, we are guiding the next generations and creating opportunities for them to thrive in identity, to be empowered by culture and to walk proudly with the wisdom of both worlds. This is vital work, reaching from our Country and communities to the global stage. Australia must embrace our models of education so every child has the chance to prosper.”

**END**