

THE

# Kate Mullin

ASSOCIATION

## **Aboriginal Literacy**

A major barrier to Aboriginals competing successfully for jobs in modern Australia is an inferior education and particularly inferior literacy. There is a huge gap in literacy standards between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children in Australia, increasing for children from remote Aboriginal communities. Illiteracy covers almost all the skills one needs to face real life challenges in a competent, confident way. It directly flows on to one's ability to compete for employment or go on to further studies.

## **What We Want to Achieve**

The Kate Mullin Association (KMA) is focused on improving the literacy levels of Aboriginal children. Our vision is that through improved literacy Aboriginal students will enjoy the same opportunities and choices as the wider community.

## **Who We Are**

Kate Mullin was a passionate and visionary ESL Literacy consultant who made significant and far reaching contributions to Indigenous literacy in WA. After her tragic death in a car accident in 2008, the KMA was set up by her many friends and colleagues to continue her work. We are a network of teachers, literacy co-ordinators and researchers in the area of Aboriginal literacy.

## **What We Do**

The purpose of the Association is to continue Kate's passion, dedication and commitment to improving literacy outcomes for Aboriginal students by the following.

### **Advocate for literacy teaching amongst Principals of Aboriginal Schools**

The KMA intends to hold a Principals Conference. The purpose is to highlight the poor state of literacy education in WA, prioritise upcoming projects in Aboriginal literacy, and explore schools pooling their resources for the common good.

### **Provide more literacy teachers in remote communities**

The KMA plans include funding a Scholarship for an Aboriginal person in a local community to train to be a primary school teacher, with the proviso they go back and teach in their local community for 2-3 years after graduating.

### **Develop and sharing good practice**

To address the problem that these teachers are in remote separate communities, we have developed a KMA website ([www.katemullinassociation.org](http://www.katemullinassociation.org)). We are proposing to improve it to be an interactive tool for sharing and promoting good practice, and to provide a credible resource centre for Aboriginal literacy research and publications.

### **Celebrate quality teaching**

The KMA funds a Teacher Award worth \$5,000 each year for the teacher in WA who makes the best contribution to improving the literacy of Aboriginal Students.

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