My Life My Lead - Opportunities for strengthening approaches to the social determinants and the cultural determinants of Indigenous health: Report on the national consultations December 2017

PRIORITY AREA 7
Health and opportunity through education

“Respecting our local culture within all classrooms across Australia would help all students with respect to personal identity and Australia-wide identity issues.”
(Online submission)

There is a strong link between education and employment - at high levels of education, there is virtually no employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Parents’ preference for their child to learn an Indigenous language at school:

- Available as a second language: 1%
- In a bilingual program: 9%
- As a compulsory second language: 31%
- As the main language used at school: 49%
- No: 10%

NEXT STEPS

Education that supports good health and wellbeing as young Indigenous people transition through their school years, building aspirations and equipping them with the skills they need for meaningful careers in the 21st century:

- Enhance respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and languages in education;
- Support parent and family engagement in education;
- Enhance focus on the middle years; and
- Strengthen the link between education and employment.

1 Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2017, Closing the Gap Prime Minister’s Report 2017
2 Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children: Parent’s preferences for their child to learn and Indigenous language at school (%). Working Group analysis 2010

For more information go to www.health.gov.au/mylifemylead