

Media exposure and availability of the Statistical Overview Report on Aboriginal adult English LLN in the NT

26/09/17

Copies of the report are available at:

OPVC-IL

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/indigenous-leadership>

The ACAL website

<http://www.acal.edu.au/conference/english-language-literacy-and-numeracy-for-aboriginal-adults-in-the-nt/>

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/aboriginal-adult-english-language-literacy-and-numeracy-lln-in-the-northern-territory-a-statistical-overview/>

Australian Council for Private Education and Training Providers

<https://www.acpet.edu.au/article/11802/lln-for-aboriginal-adults-in-the-nt/>

People invited to approach Michael Hall for a copy.

ARTICLES:

Guardian article

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/sep/14/most-indigenous-adults-in-remote-nt-are-not-literate-enough-for-workplace-study-finds>

ABC net news

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-12/majority-adults-remote-indigenous-nt-lack-basic-literacy-skills/8899782>

CDU e news

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/enews/stories/indigenous-literacy>

12/9 – NT News – P5 lead story

12/9 – ABC News TV live interview with Joe O'Brien (Sydney, aired nationwide)

12/9 – ABC Darwin online story

12/9 – ABC Darwin TV news (also aired in Albany WA)

12/9 – ABC News Evenings With Grandstand TV (aired nationwide)

11/9 and 12/9 – ABC Darwin radio news, ABC Alice Springs radio news

27/09 – AS interview on Territory FM (104) on “Ask the Expert” live in the studio

CDU - WED 13 SEPTEMBER 2017: Media portal Report 130917

Executive Summary

- New research shows almost nine in 10 adults surveyed in remote Indigenous ...
ABC News, Sydney, ABC News Evenings With Grandstand, Newsreader 12 Sep 2017 7:46 PM
Duration: 2 mins 16 secs • National • Australia • Radio & TV • ID: X00071788835
New research shows almost nine in 10 adults surveyed in remote Indigenous communities in the NT do not have the literacy skills to cope in workplaces and education facilities. Researchers have presented their report at a symposium in Darwin, and are now calling on the Government to address the issue.

Audience

54,000 ALL, 31,000 MALE 16+, 20,000 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees

Allison Stewart, Project Leader, Charles Darwin University | Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, Galiwin'ku elder

Also broadcast from the following 10 stations

ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News

(Perth), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)

- New research shows almost nine in 10 adults surveyed in remote Indigenous ...
ABC, Darwin, ABC News, Eleni Roussos 12 Sep 2017 7:15 PM
Duration: 1 min 59 secs • NT • Australia • Radio & TV • ID: X00071788870
New research shows almost nine in 10 adults surveyed in remote Indigenous communities do not have the literacy skills to cope in workplaces and educational facilities. The group analysing the data will be presenting the report to Federal Government this week.

Audience

24,000 ALL, 10,000 MALE 16+, 12,000 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees

Allison Stewart, Project Leader, Charles Darwin University | Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, Galiwin'ku elder

Also broadcast from the following 1 station ABC (Albany)

[Helen Davidson](#)

Nearly all Indigenous adults in remote NT are not literate enough for workplace, study finds

Survey also found lack of assistance for Indigenous Australians who wanted to improve their skills

A Charles Darwin University survey found nearly nine out of 10 Indigenous adults living in remote areas of the Northern Territory do not have the literacy skills to cope in the workplace. Photograph: Jonny Weeks for the Guardian

Shares
222

Guardian article.

Thursday 14 September 2017 13.48 AEST Last modified on Thursday 14 September 2017 13.52 AEST

Nearly nine out of 10 Indigenous adults living in remote areas of the Northern Territory do not have the literacy skills to cope in the workplace, a study has found.

The survey, by the Charles Darwin University, examined six Indigenous communities across the NT: Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Tennant Creek and Yuendumu.

It found more than 85% of a sample group of 660 people did not have the literacy skills to operate independently in a tertiary educational institution or in the workplace, and there was a lack of assistance for people who wanted to improve their skills.

“What it clearly identifies is that there is a gap in the education spectrum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NT,” said Prof Adrian Miller, CDU’s pro vice-chancellor for Indigenous leadership.

“While we may seem to have looked after the young, looked after the teenagers – built their English literacy – this report shows that (despite best efforts) they are not getting the English and numeracy they need in school. Therefore, we have this massive literacy problem when they become adults.”

The six communities have been taking part in the Whole of Community engagement initiative, which project leader Allison Stewart described as a “participatory action research project, partnering with people from the community to see what enables and what holds back education participation”.

“In each community we found the community participated in the project in different ways and had differing priorities,” she said.

Fifty-four per cent of NT Indigenous people speak an Indigenous language at home, and the proportion increases with remoteness, to a maximum of more than 80%.

Almost 60% of people living in very remote regions of the NT are Indigenous, according to the 2011 census, [where there are also higher rates of disadvantage](#) including in health and housing.

The report found that during community consultations, “Aboriginal people reiterated the centrality of their own languages to their cultural practice, identity and connection to country, however many understood the importance of supporting their children to learn English and wanted to improve their own (whether in employment or not)”.

The report cited government analysis of 2008 data that found people who spoke an Indigenous language had better health, wellbeing, education and employment outcomes, and called for responses to recognise the benefit of bilingual education.

“We really need [help]. Yolngu people want nurturing, we want mentoring programs to be happen, we want adult education to happen,” Rosemary Gundjarranbuy from Elcho Island told the ABC.

Stewart said: “A lot of people said it was really important for themselves and their children to be literate in their own language and that English comes on as an additional language.

“Some research has shown that children who are competent in their own language are more competent in speaking and learning English because they’ve built that language capacity.”

Stewart and representatives from some of the communities were in Canberra on Wednesday to visit government departments and share their findings and recommendations.

“We’re trying to get government to understand the need for more assistance in this area and the need for a policy in the NT for adult education and/or language literacy and numeracy,” Stewart said.

Despite being a signatory to the Council of Australian Governments policy to raise adult literacy levels, it had no explicit reference to adult literacy in its economic development and Indigenous affairs policies, and had no direct application of government funding to the sector.

Stewart said there was a lack of coordinated responses at the federal level.

“[Closing the Gap](#) – the primary policy in this area – has no key performance indicators around adult education or around language, literacy and numeracy,” she said. “That has a flow on effect, and there’s no adult education policy or language, literacy and numeracy policy for the NT.”

This was not new information and many practitioners have been pointing out the problem for years, she said.

“Some very successful models applied but there’s never been any coordinated action in this area, there’s never been a policy commitment.”