What is the Government doing to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students?

The Australian Government will provide record levels of funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

The Australian Government will grow its record level of recurrent funding for schools from $17.5 billion in 2017 to $32.4 billion in 2029.

The Australian Government will invest a record $310.3 billion for school recurrent funding over 2018 to 2029. This includes an estimated loading of $5.2 billion through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading.

Funding provided through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading will grow by 64.4 per cent over this period.

In 2019, this additional funding is expected to benefit around 223,279 students who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will also benefit from national reform

The Australian Government is committed to closing the achievement gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students.

From 2018, the Government’s growing investment in schools are tied to the implementation of its evidence-backed quality reforms proven to lift student achievement.

The Government commissioned the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools, chaired by Mr David Gonski AC, to provide advice on how the extra Commonwealth funding provided from 2018 should be invested to improve Australian schools’ performance and grow student achievement.

Opportunity through learning
On 28 March 2018, the Review panel delivered the final report to the Government, *Through Growth to Achievement: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools*. The report makes 23 recommendations across five areas to support three identified priorities:

- deliver at least one year’s growth in learning for every student every year
- equip every student to be a creative, connected and engaged learner in a rapidly changing world
- cultivate an adaptive, innovative and continuously improving education system.

The new National School Reform Agreement supports reforms that evidence shows will make the biggest difference to educational outcomes, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The agreement will also require that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are engaged with on the implementation of reform initiatives, as appropriate.