



DE22/08892

Office of the Chief Executive

31 Flinders Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1152  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 541

Professor Chris Matthews  
Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance  
(ATSIMA)

Email: [chrismatthews@atsima.org](mailto:chrismatthews@atsima.org)

[www.education.sa.gov.au](http://www.education.sa.gov.au)

Dear Professor Matthews

The department is launching its first Culturally Responsive Framework (the framework) this week.

**Thank you for your valuable contribution in developing this framework.** As the new Chief Executive I am particularly proud of this piece of work as it exemplifies the importance of embedding Aboriginal voice and the value of co-design. I believe it provides the critical platform to building a culturally responsive department so that all Aboriginal people can work, learn and thrive here.

The framework is an important deliverable in the department's Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019 and is a key priority in Chapter 1 of our Workforce Strategy. It demonstrates the department's commitment to standing with and working alongside Aboriginal employees and communities.

When our workplace is culturally responsive our Aboriginal employees feel respected and supported, and this flows on to every employee, child and young person in our system.

Across key areas of action, the framework will guide our people in their journey of ongoing critical reflection to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding of the diverse histories and cultures of Aboriginal people.

The department is taking a staged approach to implementing the framework. From June, the Aboriginal Workforce Initiatives Team will be working with a number of sites in a pilot implementation phase. This will help us to:

- better understand the different site factors that contribute to a successful uptake of the framework

- review and improve the implementation supports and future iterations of the framework
- contribute to the design of a learning support program that supports the aims of the framework
- develop case studies to share across the department for all sites to learn from; and
- support a more formal launch in early 2023.

**I encourage you to read the attached Culturally Responsive Framework and share it amongst your network.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I look forward to providing further updates as our work progresses and your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Martin Westwell**  
Chief Executive  
Department for Education

20 May 2022