



MEMORANDUM

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To: All members of the AEU-NT
From: Full Time Officers AEU-NT
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BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Recent media coverage surrounding bilingual education has identified a possible shift in the NT Government's policy of 'First Four Hours Instruction in English.'

The AEU, both nationally and in the Northern Territory has supported bilingual programs for many years.

We firmly believe and restate that efforts to improve attendance, retention, literacy and numeracy of indigenous children are inextricably linked with properly resourced and supported bilingual programs.

Its bicultural approach, using examples from the day to day lives of children, recognises and affirms cultural knowledge, building community engagement with the school. This belief is supported by well established research showing that Indigenous languages assist in student learning.

As signatories to the UN International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we are required to fulfil our obligations to Articles 13 and 14 of the Declaration. These specifically relate to the rights of Indigenous peoples and their languages and the right to access education provided in Indigenous languages.

Further information regarding the Utju community's Human Rights fight to ensure this Declaration is complied with will be published in the upcoming Territory Educator. This will be distributed to sub branches next week.