Position Description

Program Manager – Aboriginal Languages S121-5

Why work with us

Every child and young person deserves a great education.

We have a strategy that aims to unlock every child's potential now and into the future, one that in partnership with learners, students, parents and the wider South Australian community will build a world-leading public education system. One that is equitable and prioritises learning and wellbeing.

Together we will make our education system the best it can be.

When our children and young people thrive, so do our communities and our state.

Our values

We are part of the South Australian public sector and share the values of:

 SERVICE	 PROFESSIONALISM	 TRUST	 RESPECT	 COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT	 HONESTY & INTEGRITY	 COURAGE & TENACITY	 SUSTAINABILITY
We proudly service the community and the South Australian Government.	We strive for excellence.	We have the confidence in the ability of others.	We value every individual.	We create solutions together.	We act truthfully, consistently, and fairly.	We never give up.	We work to get the best results for current and future generations of South Australians.

About this role

The EALD and Aboriginal Languages Unit, within the Curriculum Directorate of Curriculum and Learning Division supports Aboriginal Community aspirations to see their languages in South Australian public schools. The Aboriginal languages team partners with communities and schools to support the development of language resources and localised school programs.

The Program Manager, Aboriginal Languages provides state-wide leadership and expertise to improve access and participation in Aboriginal languages learning across all year levels of schooling and supports teachers and leaders to deliver effective and culturally affirming languages education in partnership with local Aboriginal communities.

The Manager ensures high level coordination between the Aboriginal Languages team and other Curriculum and Learning Division teams, and with colleagues in the department and interstate, and in particular culturally sensitive collaboration with external Aboriginal community organisations to develop partnerships that support language development.

Position title	Program Manager, Aboriginal Languages
Classification	S121 5
Division	Curriculum and Learning
Directorate	Curriculum
Location	Ground Floor, Education Support Hub 8 Milner Street Hindmarsh 5007
Reports to	Assistant Director, EALD and Aboriginal Languages
Direct reports	Project Officer/s Aboriginal Languages Project Officer/s Anangu Bilingual Education
Role description date	July 2026

What you will do (key outcomes)

1. Lead the increased participation of students learning Aboriginal languages through the collaborative development of high-quality curriculum resources and associated professional learning that supports Aboriginal language programs in schools.
2. Partner with Aboriginal Communities to develop strategic and respectful implementation programs for revival language curricula that are tailored to local contexts, including identifying and analysing complex risks, issues and opportunities associated with learning and teaching Aboriginal languages.
3. Oversee the Aboriginal Languages Programs Initiatives (ALPI) and the Aboriginal Languages Maintenance and Development (ALMD) grant program application including robust data collection and reporting.
4. Lead collaboration with Aboriginal Community organisations to facilitate the Aboriginal Languages and Culture Partnership Program (ACLCP) including distribution of grants and monitoring of impact.
5. Oversee and provide strategic support to Anangu Lands partnership through developing innovative contemporary education design and research to guide and influence the development and implementation of the curriculum, pedagogical standards and systems aligned to the Bilingual Education Policy
6. Lead the development of professional learning programs, quality bilingual curriculum and resources, including the development of professional learning relating to language proficiency and literacy to develop capabilities and knowledge in educators.
7. Help to maintain a safe and healthy and a culturally safe working environment by proactively reporting incidents, hazards and injuries.

The capabilities you will bring (key competencies)

- Leadership*:* Demonstrated collaborative leadership to implement a strong vision, building trust, respect and motivation in teams, leveraging the expertise of team members and successfully navigating organisational, political and cultural complexities.
- Research and evaluation: Extensive experience in conducting high level and detailed research, that underpins and guides the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of effective languages curriculum and professional learning programs that are focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal students.

- **Knowledge of education frameworks***:* Demonstrated knowledge of relevant curriculum and pedagogical frameworks, standards, and the implications for leaders, teachers and students, and Aboriginal communities in South Australia as they relate to the uptake of Aboriginal languages.
- **Organisational skills:** Demonstrated high level experience and initiative in planning, prioritizing, developing, implementing and delivering critical, connected and consistent educational and operational advice, plans and policy in a timely and accurate manner to guide and facilitate educational outcomes within a complex environment.
- **Communication:** Proven high-level oral and written communication, consultation, negotiation and interpersonal skills; ability to exhibit political and cultural sensitivity and present complex information in a manner that promotes the priorities of the department and is inclusive of communities.
- **Relationship management:** Successful experience in developing relationships, and networks with a diverse range of colleagues, providers, schools, communities and external partnerships to effectively deliver outcomes in a complex and changing high stakes environment.
- **Work Health and Safety:** Demonstrated knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment, and the legislative requirements of Equal Opportunity and Work Health and Safety legislation.

Who you will work with (key relationships)	Qualifications
Reports directly to the Assistant Director, EALD and Aboriginal Languages Manages a team of Aboriginal languages project officers, writers and administrative support officers. Works closely with community leaders, and officers within Curriculum and Learning. Consults and negotiates with key partners and stakeholders in the community, other state and commonwealth government departments, principal, parent and professional associations, unions, interstate education systems and authorities.	**Essential:** Nil **Desirable:** A tertiary qualification in a related education field or equivalent experience.
Eligibility	
Appointments made under section 121 of the *Education and Children's Services Act 2019* may provide health, social or other non-education services to schools, preschools and children's services centres. Positions will require the application of specialist education related skills and knowledge required for managing education programs, or, administration of education standards requiring specific knowledge of site functions and operations.	

Corporate responsibilities	Special conditions
Keep accurate and complete records Act appropriately in line with the Public Sector Code of Ethics at all times Support diversity and promote an inclusive workplace for everyone Maintain a commitment to Work Health and Safety legislative requirements	You may need a current driver's license and be willing to drive *(remove if not required)* You may be asked to work out of hours You may need to travel within or outside South Australia You need to achieve mutually agreed performance goals You must have a current Working with Children Check You must do Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care training You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence you have a current work permit

Assessed by: Riley Kempster, P&C Advisor, P&C Operations		**Approved by**: Beverley White, Assistant Director, EALD and Aboriginal Languages	
Date: August, 2026		**Date:** August, 2026	