

Linguistic (and educational) policies (and practice) of indigenous languages in Australia

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ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR
THE DYNAMICS OF LANGUAGE



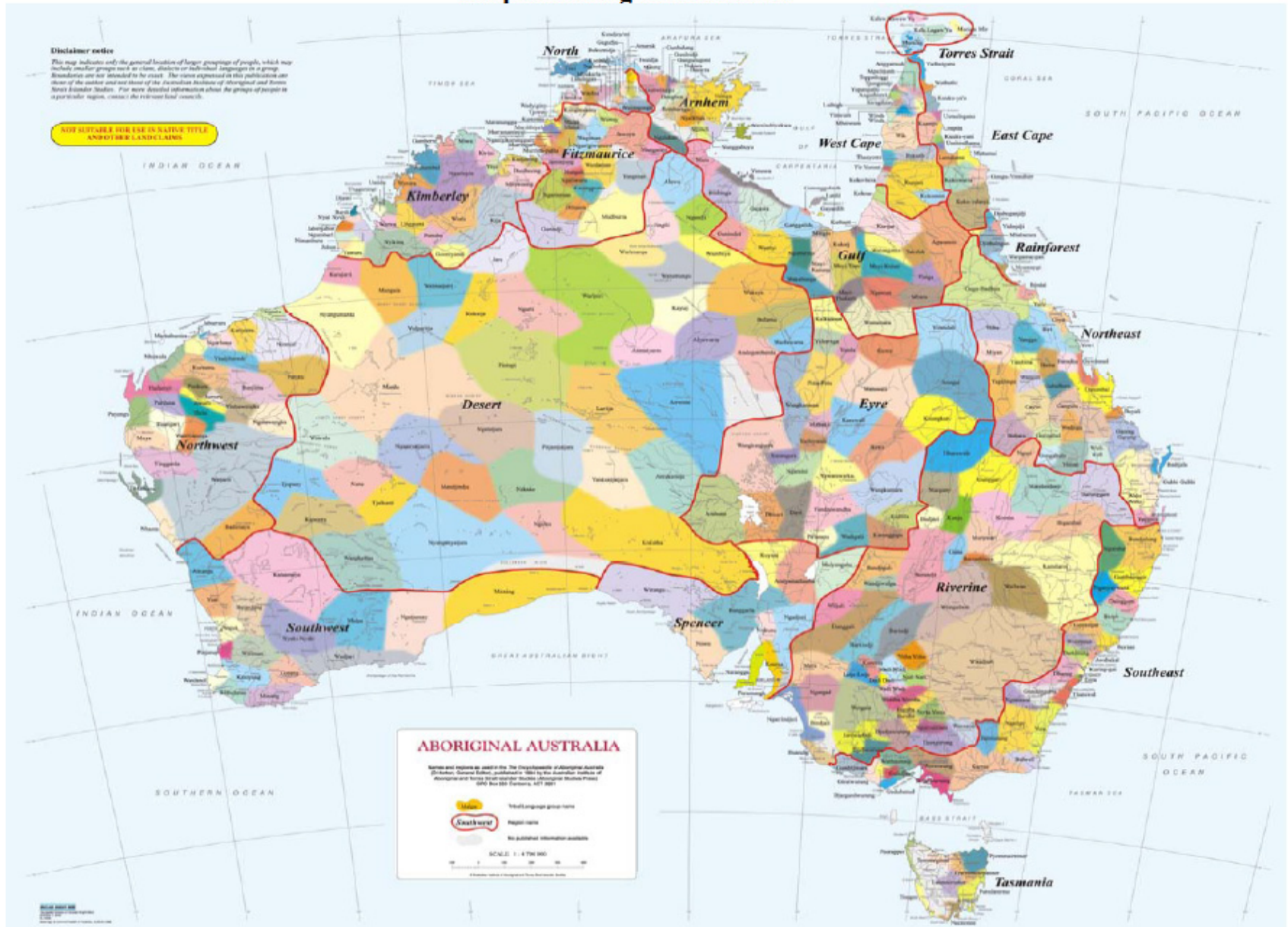
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MULTIPLE CONTEXTS, DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES**

Pontifical Catholic University, Quito, Ecuador
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Horton 1996 Aboriginal Australia map

Map of Aboriginal Australia



Another Australia map





Australia states and territories

States of Australia^[n 1]

Flag	State name	Abbrev	ISO ^[2]	Postal	Capital	Population (Mar 2019) ^[3]	Area (km ²) ^[4]	Governor	Premier
	New South Wales	NSW	AU-NSW	NSW	Sydney	8,071,071	809,952	Margaret Beazley	Gladys Berejiklian (Liberal)
	Queensland	QLD	AU-QLD	QLD	Brisbane	5,076,512	1,851,736	Paul de Jersey	Annastacia Palaszczuk (Labor)
	South Australia	SA	AU-SA	SA	Adelaide	1,748,630	1,044,353	Hieu Van Le	Steven Marshall (Liberal)
	Tasmania	Tas	AU-TAS	TAS	Hobart	533,308	90,758	Kate Warner	Will Hodgman (Liberal)
	Victoria	Vic	AU-VIC	VIC	Melbourne	6,556,170	237,657	Linda Dessau	Daniel Andrews (Labor)
	Western Australia	WA	AU-WA	WA	Perth ^[n 2]	2,615,794	2,642,753	Kim Beazley	Mark McGowan (Labor)

Internal territories of Australia^[n 3]

Flag	Territory name	Abbrev	ISO ^[2]	Postal	Capital	Population (Mar 2019) ^[3]	Area (km ²) ^[4]	Administrator	Chief Minister
	Australian Capital Territory	ACT	AU-ACT	ACT	Canberra	425,706	2,358	none ^[5]	Andrew Barr (Labor)
	Jervis Bay Territory	JBT		ACT	none (Jervis Bay Village)	405	67	none ^[6]	none
	Northern Territory	NT	AU-NT	NT	Darwin	245,562	1,419,630	Vicki O'Halloran	Michael Gunner (Labor)

Australia states and territories

Government in the [Commonwealth of Australia](#) is exercised on three levels: [federal](#), **states and territories**, and [local government](#).

There are six **states**: [New South Wales](#), [Victoria](#), [Queensland](#), [Western Australia](#), [South Australia](#) and [Tasmania](#). (Historically, each is a successor to one of the previous [Australian colonies](#).)

Each state has its own constitution, with its own legislature (parliament), judiciary and executive. The state parliaments have plenary legislative power, except that some areas of legislative power are exclusive to the federal parliament, many others are exercised concurrently with it and, in case of conflict between federal and state legislation, the federal legislation prevails. A decision of a state judiciary is subject to appeal to a federal court.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_and_territories_of_Australia

In Australia there are 9 educational bureaucracies?!

Policy overviews

Adriano Truscott and Ian Malcolm 2010 Closing the policy-practice gap: making Indigenous language policy more than empty rhetoric. In *Re-Awakening Languages: Theory & Practice in the Revitalisation of Australia's Indigenous Languages*, eds. John Hobson, Kevin Lowe, Susan Poetsch and Michael Walsh. Sydney: Sydney University Press, 6-21.

<https://open.sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/9781920899554/rl-closing-the-policypractice-gap-making-indigenous-language-policy-more-than-empty-rhetoric.html#Chapter2>

Language policies for Australian languages

<http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/nash/aust/policy.html>

Invisible policy

One factor working against the success of these policies that are supportive of Indigenous languages, is the **invisible, or de facto, language policy which puts the objective of Standard Australian English (SAE) literacy above all other language objectives** (such as language maintenance). Indeed the effect of the way in which the objective of SAE literacy is pursued can be to deny the essential place of Indigenous languages in people's lives and in the continuance of their cultures. It is not so much the goal of SAE literacy for all Australians (which indeed has near universal approval) that is being contested here, but the subordination of other language objectives to this end. This subordination can be labelled invisible, since its overriding of other linguistic goals such as revitalisation is not stated, but assumed. Invisible language policy, then, can seriously and adversely affect not only language revitalisation and Indigenous education as a whole but how multilingualism and language rights are seen in the mainstream society.

A plethora of resources e.g.

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/p_10/snr_atSI_languages_11_websites.pdf

Aussie Educator Indigenous Languages — Portal-style website developed by educators to provide resources and ideas on a range of curriculum topics:

www.aussieeducator.org.au/curriculum/otherlanguages/indigenouSLanguage.html

• Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) — Languages pages for the Australian Curriculum:

<http://www.acara.edu.au/languages.html>

• Campfire — NSW Department of Education and Training's interactive website/CD-ROM to support teaching/learning NSW Aboriginal languages:

www.curriculumSupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/languages/languages/aboriginal/campfire/index.htm

• Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools— Education Queensland's practical guide to inclusive school practices for administrators and educators:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/services/eatsips.html>

• Indigenous Languages in Australian Schools: A Way Forward— ACER report for the Australian Government Department of Education Science and Training that outlines the state of Indigenous languages in 2008 and makes recommendations for future directions: http://research.acer.edu.au/indigenous_education/18/

A plethora of resources e.g.

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/p_10/snr_atasi_languages_11_websites.pdf

- Language Perspectives — Education Queensland’s support materials for community languages, particularly English as a second dialect: www.languageperspectives.org.au/

Queensland Studies Authority — Indigenous Perspectives, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages: www.qsa.qld.edu.au/577.html

- National Statement for Languages Education in Australian Schools — Outlines a national plan for languages education in Australian schools 2005–2008:

www.mceetya.edu.au/verve/_resources/languageeducation_file.pdf

- Aboriginal educational contexts — NSW Board of Studies site that showcases school–community developed teaching and learning materials, including some for languages: <http://ab-ed.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

A plethora of resources e.g.

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/p_10/snr_atasi_languages_11_websites.pdf

- NSW Department of Education Aboriginal Languages — Features policies, curriculum materials and sample units relating to the teaching of NSW Aboriginal languages:

www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/languages/languages/aboriginal/index.htm

- SA Curriculum, Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework — Provides curriculum support for teaching Australian Indigenous languages within SA:

www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/index_fsrc.asp?t=LA&ID=EYINTROCONTEXT

- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — Supports reclaiming and reviving Victorian Aboriginal languages and cultures:

www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/alcv/about.aspx(main website)

www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/alcv/aboriginal_stds.aspx (link to Standards booklet)

- WA Department of Education — K–10 syllabus, scope and sequence for teaching Aboriginal languages in WA:

www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/k10syllabus/detcms/navigation/languages/aboriginal-languages/?oid=Category-id-10865690