MATSITI Start-up Funding Opportunity

Call for innovative online education network projects
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teacher workforce

The More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative (MATSITI) is a national four-year initiative to increase the number and professional capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers in Australian schools.

The MATSITI Project Team is seeking expressions of interest from schools, universities or Indigenous education or community organisations to establish collaborative projects utilising online networks.

Digital networks and projects are sought to focus on attraction, retention and career and leadership development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers.

Projects are invited that facilitate rich discussion, collaboration, resource sharing and capacity-building, utilising information and communications technologies in innovative ways for professional opportunities and to overcome common challenges.

Projects may focus on the communication needs of teachers, school leaders, teacher education students or providers, prospective teachers (school students and adults), teacher education support staff, community advocates or a combination of these groups.

Proposed networks may utilise a range of Internet and education technology platforms and applications, including fast broadband where available.

Selection criteria for online projects will be proposals that demonstrate:

- **Clear benefits** - how the project will make a difference to Indigenous teacher workforce development and contribution to MATSITI goals
- **Innovation** – to deliver outcomes not easily achievable through other means
- **Indigenous leadership** – the extent to which Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people will establish and operate the proposed online network
- **High engagement** - how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be engaged and interact as participants in the proposed network
- **Capability** of the proposed project leaders, including online facilitation and management of security and privacy issues
- **Openness** - a willingness to share project findings, resources, successes and challenges to a wider audience
- **Sustainability** - are cost-effective and able to be sustained after start-up funding concludes

Initial funding for selected projects will be **up to $10,000** (excluding GST) to be undertaken during the period **May – December 2013**.

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection panel chaired by Professor Peter Buckskin, Dean; Indigenous Scholarship, Education and Research, University of South Australia and Project Director, MATSITI initiative.
Online collaborative networks

Online platforms may include social media sites, video-conferencing, career networks, Internet ‘cloud’ services or secure online learning platforms\(^1\) hosted and supported by MATSITI or your institution. Low cost ICT infrastructure is recommended.

Project examples could include, but not be restricted to:

- Use of social media to reach Indigenous school students or adults and for them to consider teaching as a desirable career aspiration
- Showcasing of existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teacher workforce practices to a wider audience through video sharing sites or other digital channels
- Establishing a network of professional practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers, educators or teacher education students across institutions, education sectors or borders
- Communications networks that overcome remoteness or cultural barriers, or assist communication between education provision and Indigenous communities
- Increase the visibility of the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers to the education profession and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Virtual conferences or webinars for professional learning or discussing topical issues
- Demonstrate the potential of 21st century teaching and learning enabled by information and communication technologies and applied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

How to apply

Completed applications for online network start-up funding using the attached template should be forwarded via email with attached application document to:

**Kerryn Tayler**  
Executive Assistant, Dean: Indigenous Scholarship, Engagement and Research  
Email: kerryn.tayler@unisa.edu.au by COB Friday 5\(^{th}\) April 2013

This round of MATSITI project funding is intended as ‘seed funding’ to establish online Indigenous education networks that can grow and develop further into the future.

Funding per project is up to $10,000 excluding GST. Speculative applications above this funding limit will not be considered.

Enquiries about proposals can be directed to

**Mark Tranthim-Fryer, Project Manager, MATSITI**  
mark.fryer@unisa.edu.au or 08 83020562

Further information about MATSITI can be found at [www.matsiti.edu.au](http://www.matsiti.edu.au)

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\(^1\) Online infrastructure hosted by MATSITI and on the MATSITI domain includes Moodle learning management system, Adobe Connect live conferencing, Wordpress blogging – see [www.matsiti.edu.au](http://www.matsiti.edu.au), [www.matsiti.net](http://www.matsiti.net) These networks enable exposure to hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers, leaders and teacher education students. Basic hosting and support will be made available at no cost to projects.