Make teaching a career of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Coinciding with tomorrow’s World Teacher Day, when Australians celebrate the work of those who educate our children, the Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) is pleased to announce it is partnering with the University of South Australia as part of the More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teacher Initiative (MATSITI) to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders considering teaching as a career choice.

In the recently released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teacher Workforce Analysis booklet, MATSITI Project Director Professor Peter Buckskin PSM, FACE, said “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students still rarely see their own people teaching in the classroom”.

CDAA National Manager Greg Parker said as Australia’s largest and only cross-sectoral association of career development professionals, with members working in industry, government, education, training, employment as well as community-related sectors, CDAA was well placed to deliver the ‘Follow my lead’ project throughout 2015.

“Those working within the school environment have both the expertise and teaching experience to make a positive impact on the career decisions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students”, Mr Parker said.

The Association encouraged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to use tomorrow’s World Teacher day to think about teaching as a career of choice.

“According to Workforce Analysis, in 2012 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers in Australian schools only represented 1.2% of the total school workforce,” Mr Parker said.

“This means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators are under-represented in the teaching profession in comparison to the school student cohort where Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders comprised 4.9% of the total student population.

“This is a sign of the critical importance of projects such as ‘Follow My Lead’ to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people graduating from Australian universities as teachers.”

The four-year national MATSITI program is funded by the Australian Government, managed by UniSA and led and governed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people entering and remaining in teaching positions in Australian schools.

As part of its involvement in the project, CDAA will offer a number of ‘Follow my lead’ workshops in focus regions around Australia. The workshop program will explore MATSITI’s aims and objectives and how to incorporate role modelling in career development activities, while increasing professional competency in conducting work in a culturally sensitive way.

Workshops will commence in March 2015 - visit www.cdaa.org.au for more information, with dates and venues being announced in coming months.
‘Follow my lead’ will work closely with a number of the other MATSITI projects. You can follow MATSITI’s activity for Indigenous students to consider education and teaching as a career of choice through social media #OurMobTeach.

Enquiries to:

Jenny Schebella, Communications & Events Officer CDAA
Phone: 08 82328870
Email: communications@cdaa.org.au

Michele Whall. Project Officer CDAA
Phone: 08 82328870
Email: projects@cdaa.org.au

Or

Contact MATSITI
Brian Marshall, MATSITI Research Project Officer
Phone: (08) 8302 9214 or 0437 160 479
Email: brian.marshall@unisa.edu.au