



## First Nations – supporting education outcomes

### Building Boarding Schools On-Country

Studio Schools of Australia will build a new middle year secondary boarding school at Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) in the Kimberley, upgrade their existing Yiramalay Studio School, and establish a new Indigenous Education and Research Centre.

This measure revises the scope of the Building Boarding Schools On-Country program.

Construction costs have increased across Australia, particularly in remote areas. This has significantly impacted what is possible within the Building Boarding Schools On-Country program.

#### Why is this important?

Supporting boarding options reduces the challenges that students from remote communities face in accessing school while staying connected to Country and family.

Programs that support student engagement and pathways to further education and employment are critical to retention and longer-term success of First Nations students.

The Building Boarding Schools On-Country program contributes to Closing the Gap Target 5: *By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 20-24) attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96 per cent.*

#### Who will benefit?

In line with community agreements in place, the Bandilngan site has been nominated by Studio Schools Australia as the most appropriate location for constructing a new Studio School.

When constructed, the school will support up to 78 middle years (Years 7 to 9) students and provide a supportive and culturally safe learning environment on-Country.

#### How much will it cost?

The Government is committing \$70.8 million to deliver the revised program scope, with savings of \$4.2 million to be redirected to other measures within the Education portfolio.