

Response to National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF) consultation paper

Overview

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) is constituted under the *Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Act, 1999*, and is an accredited higher education provider and registered training organisation.

BIITE's mission is to provide educational and training programs and courses, and facilities and resources for research and study to the Indigenous people of Australia.

The Institute's main campus is in Batchelor, NT, and it also has a presence in Alice Springs and Darwin as well as delivery to remote sites. BIITE is small, has a focused, single mission and a unique student cohort. BIITE is the largest provider of tertiary education and training to remote indigenous communities in NT and beyond.

Response to NPILF consultation paper

BIITE is generally supportive of the intent and aspirations of the NPILF, but suggests more consideration needs to be given to the capacity of small institutions to respond to the framework and guidelines, particularly reporting requirements. Further, the NPILF does not take sufficient account of the needs of indigenous students, particularly where for remote communities.

Question	BIITE Response
Principles	Supported
Tiered Indicators	Too many indicators across too many domains; difficult for small institutions, particularly BIITE's remote student cohort
Allocation methodology	Supported
Distribution option - Per EFTSL rate + base + loading	Support per EFTSL rate + base + loading; small specialist institutions need stable base
Priorities – WIL, STEM skills and industry partnerships	Strongly support WIL and industry partnerships; greater allowance in STEM needed for small, specialist institutions with unique student cohort
Existing practice	BIITE has strong industry links with Defence and with local communities, for example, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)
General	BIITE provides education which prepares many students for employment who otherwise would not participate in tertiary education at all.