

# SECCA App in Practice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

## What should teachers consider when teaching relationships and sexuality education to Aboriginal students?

While Aboriginal cultures share many similarities, Aboriginal people are diverse. Students will have varied exposure and attitudes toward RSE, and it is important that you spend time becoming familiar with your students' social and cultural influences.

### **1. Make contact with parents or caregivers**

One of the simplest ways to ensure you are teaching RSE in a culturally suitable way is to make personal contact with the parents or caregivers of your students. Some Aboriginal people may adhere to the practice of separating the discussion of certain topics into Men's and Women's Business. Other Aboriginal people may not. Open communication with your students' families will help you determine the most appropriate way to teach RSE to your students.

### **2. Educate yourself about Aboriginal experiences, both historical and contemporary**

Creating a safe environment for Aboriginal students to learn RSE involves showing respect for, and understanding of, the experiences and knowledge of Aboriginal people. It is important to educate yourself about historical influences on Aboriginal people's attitudes toward sexuality and relationships (for example the Stolen Generations and missions), and to not make assumptions about what Aboriginal students do or do not know.