



Indigenous Education Leadership  
Institute



PRESENTS



## Telstra Challenging Mindsets Tour

Proudly supported by ACER and the Victorian Chapter of the Australian College of Educators



**You are invited to participate in a forum about**

## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Guest Speaker: Dr Chris Sarra, Director of Indigenous Education Leadership Institute - a one and half hour presentation about the Cherbourg School success and a question and answer session about the stronger and smarter elements of leading education for Indigenous children.

**When:** Tuesday July 25, 2006

**Times:** 4.30pm to 6.30pm

**Where:** Australian Council for Educational Research,  
19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, 3124

**Forum:** **Stronger Smarter Strategies**

**Cost:** \$66.00 GST included  
Groups of five or more from schools discounted 20%

Registration: Fax to 0398357463 or email to [meachen@acer.edu.au](mailto:meachen@acer.edu.au) or [thornton@acer.edu.au](mailto:thornton@acer.edu.au)

Further information: Call Nick Thornton on 98357463

# SEMINAR BACKGROUND

Australian educators need to challenge their own mindsets...attitudes and skills. Many of our policies, programs and practices for Indigenous children need to be changed.

Australian teachers need to challenge each other and themselves about their own teaching practices, school organisational structures and leadership cultures to encourage Indigenous students to perform at the highest levels in school.

Educating Indigenous kids is about:

- Ensuring they have every chance to engage with thinking, problem solving, reading, writing computing and other important learning concepts.
- Embracing their backgrounds and communities and working and walking with them.
- Believing in each child's capacity to perform at the highest levels.
- Developing each child's capacities in the intellectual, social, scientific, cultural, emotional and economic numeracies and literacies of our educational world.

As we say: Each child needs the education and skills to be successful anywhere in the world-  
"Cherbourg one day, Melbourne the next "

We need to develop stronger support climates, school cultures of learning and smarter stronger leadership to ensure higher student outcomes. How do we do this better, together? These kids will not get a second chance. We need to do it right the first time, now.

No longer can we make excuses for kids learning levels. Indigenous children must not fail anymore. We cannot accept second best. We need to look at our own practices as teachers, principals, educators, policy makers, administrators. It is not only about welfare payments or parental responsibilities. It is about what we as educators can do. The Cherbourg School's success story is proof that it can be done.

Indigenous students can achieve much higher results, through establishing and sustaining higher learning expectations by teachers from their students, ensuring excellence in teacher attitudes, qualifications and practices, stronger beliefs in each student's capacity and a smarter understanding of social and cultural lives of the children " – Dr Chris Sarra, Director of the new Indigenous Education Leadership Institute.

Dr Sarra is well known as the former principal of Cherbourg State School whose students made significant literacy and numeracy improvements while absenteeism dropped significantly during his tenure. This can be done in other schools.

## SPEAKER BACKGROUND

Dr Sarra, 2004 Queenslander of the Year, holds a PhD in psychology from Murdoch University in Western Australia, Master of Education in School Guidance and Counselling from Queensland University of Technology and is now Director of the new Indigenous Education Leadership Institute.

Dr Sarra shares his work to facilitate and lead “stronger, smarter Indigenous student outcomes” throughout Australia.



Chris has had an enormous impact on Indigenous education in Queensland. In his various roles as researcher, teacher, guidance counsellor, lecturer and ministerial advisor, he has devised and implemented policies and programs designed to improve participation, retention and success rates among Indigenous students at all levels of education. Chris has worked in primary and high schools, the Department of Employment, Education and Training, Education Queensland, the University of Southern Queensland and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. These experiences provided him with an understanding of the issues surrounding Indigenous education from a number of important perspectives, enabling him to develop his own approach to addressing some entrenched social and attitudinal problems pervading the school system in both indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

Since 1998, Chris has been Principal of Cherbourg State School where he has achieved a 94% reduction in absenteeism and significant improvements in literacy and numeracy by lifting community expectations of what Indigenous children can achieve. He has helped his students to be proud of their community and Indigenous heritage through reinforcement of the school motto, 'Strong and Smart'. The stunning revival of Cherbourg State School is the subject of a documentary entitled 'Strong and Smart'.

Chris has a Diploma of Teaching in Physical Education, a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education in School Guidance and Counselling from QUT. He has also completed a PhD in Psychology, which focuses on his work at Cherbourg.

Chris' inspirational achievements and leadership were recognised when he was announced as 2004 Queenslander of the Year. Chris has made an outstanding contribution and has emerged as one of Queensland's and Australia's Indigenous leaders.

# Dr. Chris Sarra Seminar

Tuesday July 25, 2006 at ACER 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell. 4.30pm start

## Registration Details:

Titles/Names	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
Organisation	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
		Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>		
Telephone	( <input type="text"/> ) <input type="text"/>	Fax	( <input type="text"/> ) <input type="text"/>

Cost \$66.00 per person GST included. Please send cheque with registration.

If this is not possible fax registration so that an invoice can be prepared.

Any cancellations less than two days prior to the event will be invoiced in full.

Fax Registration form to  
(03) 9835 7435