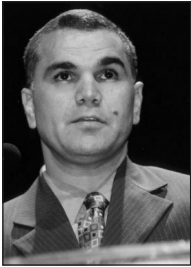


Embracing the challenge of leadership in indigenous education



Chris Sarra

Director, Indigenous Leadership Institute, Queensland

Chris Sarra is the youngest of 10 children and his family comes from Bundaberg. To date Dr Sarra has had quite an extensive career in education and with a particular focus his main passion: pursuing more positive and productive educational outcomes for Indigenous children.

More recently he became well known for the role he played as the first ever Aboriginal principal of Cherbourg State School in South East Queensland. In his time as Principal he facilitated many positive changes that saw increasing enthusiasm for student learning through dramatically improved school attendance and increased community involvement in education. Under Chris' leadership the school became nationally acclaimed for its pursuit of the 'Strong and Smart' philosophy.

Today Dr Sarra is the Director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute, which is based in Cherbourg, and designed to pursue stronger smarter student outcomes for Indigenous children throughout Australia.

Abstract

In his address Dr Sarra will articulate some of the most fundamental barriers to the pursuit of stronger smarter educational outcomes for Indigenous children in Australian schools. He will reflect on his work as an educator, and a researcher with an interest in teachers' attitudes and expectations of Aboriginal students, and challenge other educators to realise that we do have the knowledge and potential to make profound change in Indigenous education.