

Be You video transcript

Identify and build connections in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions

Jane Cheedy

My role as an AIEO is to be able to bring teaching on what we've known and being here, as two-way learning, within the education side as well as for us on the cultural awareness and our governance.

We like to tell our history of what our people used to do working within the stations with the squatters, because I feel that those histories haven't been told in the school apart from that Captain Cook was the founder of Australia.

It's about our people because we were the first real people of Australia, of this whole continent.

From our own governance and our constitutions and our policies and procedures that we've had, we've maintained that here first before Federal Government constitution that landed here in Australia.

History has never been told for our people.

So, coming into the school to teach our children, it's really about lifestyle and living skills that we have.

We have survived in here, within Australia, and teaching them, going back onto Country.

Even though that we're learning on a two-way system, with the Westernised and English standard, but it's to also know their language and write it in their language and their history.

Most of the population in the school are Aboriginal.

So, I guess that it came to knowing that our Elders first came here, telling the headmaster at that time, we want to come in and teach our children about our governance and about how we survive on this Country.

Even though our languages and our stories and things that have been written on rock carvings, you won't find it on Google or on a website. It's just hearing and visualising and seeing that hands-on practice.

It's going out on Country and showing the children, even though it's a two-way learning, if we put things into languages of something that we identify, like for instance bread. So, we'd say bread, we'd say 'martimirri' and other languages. It's meaning the same thing.

So, we're trying to bring that language back into the school as well as to write it. It makes them feel that where they belong and where their ground roots are and what Country they're from.

Because within those named title claimants that we've now officially put it in through the federal courts, is being recognised and coming back into the first real people are the owners of the continent of Australia.

There are 375 languages in Australia. So, we're basically bringing back having our teachers, AIEOs back in and teaching our language because before it gets lost and not only that, it was here first.