



***This Is Me* – A Reconciliation Resource**

In 2015, my office undertook a consultation with more than 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people across Western Australia.

They had much to say about their lives and ideas that would help them create a positive future. Many also spoke about their experiences with racism and their hope for better understanding about their culture, and for reconciliation.

One of the publications we developed from the consultation, ***This Is Me***, contains the voices of 12 everyday, but inspiring, young people. By promoting this important publication via the PALS program, my hope is that we can begin to address some of the issues Aboriginal children and young people raised in the consultation.

I encourage you to consider using some of the activities on this page that can help to build connections between students from different cultural backgrounds and to advance reconciliation in the school and broader community.

Colin Pettit
Commissioner for Children and Young People



This Is Me

Copies of ***This Is Me*** can be requested from the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office by email on info@ccyp.wa.gov.au or telephone (08) 6213 2208.

The Commissioner's office welcomes your **feedback on *This Is Me*** and is keen to hear how schools have incorporated ***This Is Me*** into the classroom. Please provide your feedback by email or call using the contacts above.

Reconciliation Activity Ideas

The following activities provide suggestions that can fulfil cross-curriculum requirements for Aboriginal studies and assist your school in implementing the [Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework](#).

Student Engagement and Community Participation

- ***This Is Me*** presents some everyday role models for WA children and young people. Do these young people inspire you? Who in your community (famous or not famous) do you look up to? Invite some of these people to your school to talk to students.
- Many of the young people in ***This Is Me*** talk about how important sport is in their lives. What do they say about why sport is important? Can sport help achievement at school? Hold a day that celebrates the ways sport contributes to our health and wellbeing.





- Read the profiles and in small groups discuss and create a list of what is culturally significant to these young people. Use Skype or another method to contact students from another area or country and ask what is culturally important to them.
- Interview adults (Mum, Dad, guardian, grandparent). Ask what is important to them and what their hopes and dreams are. Are these different to when they were young?
- After reading ***This Is Me*** students write their own profile - what makes them who they are? What is important to them? What are their hopes and dreams for the future?

Health and Wellbeing

- Look for examples in ***This Is Me*** of young people speaking about their hopes and dreams. Can you find examples of young people wanting to help others in the community? How would you like to help the community in the future? How could you make this happen?

Arts and Culture

- Painting is integral to Aboriginal culture. Laurelle (pg26) is from Warburton, an area well known for Aboriginal artists. Go to www.warburtonarts.com and research how art is used in Aboriginal culture to tell important stories and/or have a local artist visit your class/school.
- Grace (pg6) dances in a hip hop group and Jay (pg14) performs traditional dance. Investigate cultural dance groups in your area and explore what the dances mean. Ask a dance group to come and perform for your class or school.
- Jay (pg14) plays the didgeridoo and non-traditional instruments. Research Aboriginal music and instruments and either have a performer visit your class/school or try some of your own.

Aboriginal Language and History

- Explore the cultural differences outlined in the profiles and develop a school snapshot of cultures and learn more about them.
- Keean (pg10) talks about traditional lore. Investigate what this is and select a cultural group one of the young people identify with and find out more about its culture and lore and the effect European civilisation had on traditional lives.
- When reading the profiles, note the Australian towns and landmarks mentioned. Explore how Aboriginal people maintain connections to their country/place and investigate if there are any significant sites near your school. Is there a local person who can speak about these sites?
- Jasirah (pg16) discusses reconciliation. Have students investigate what reconciliation is, why it is important, and what your school can do to promote reconciliation in the community.



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