

# 'Just Do It'

## Victorian Secondary Teachers' perceptions of teaching "Learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures"

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*I acknowledge the Peoples of the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners of the Land whereon this research was conducted, and the Jagera and Turrbal Peoples whose land we meet on today. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and to any First Nations persons present here today.*



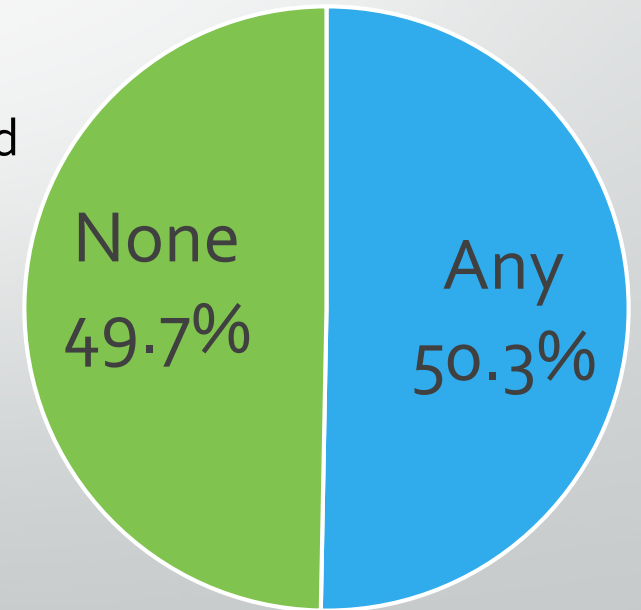
**MONASH**  
University

# Learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

- 2010 - Australian Curriculum published
- 2014 - Australian Curriculum implemented
- 2015 - Victorian Curriculum published
- 2017 - Victorian Curriculum implemented
- 2018 - This study undertaken

**3:71**

Average number of minutes spent on Indigenous content by secondary teachers (Luke et al., 2013)



Percentage of secondary teachers teaching Indigenous content (Luke et al., 2013)



?

**University education?**

**School leaders?**

**Teachers?**

?

?

**Parents?**

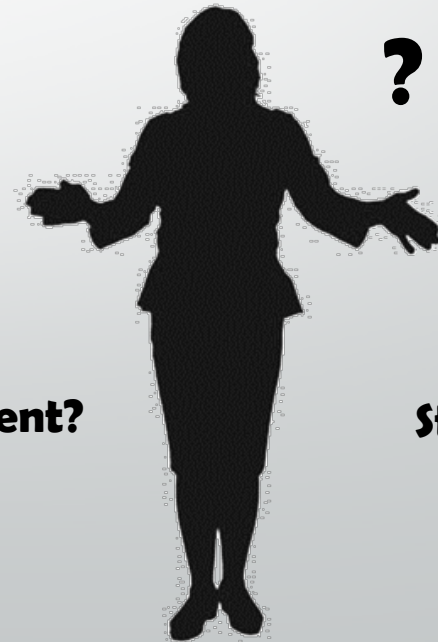
**The curriculum?**

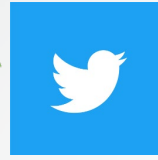
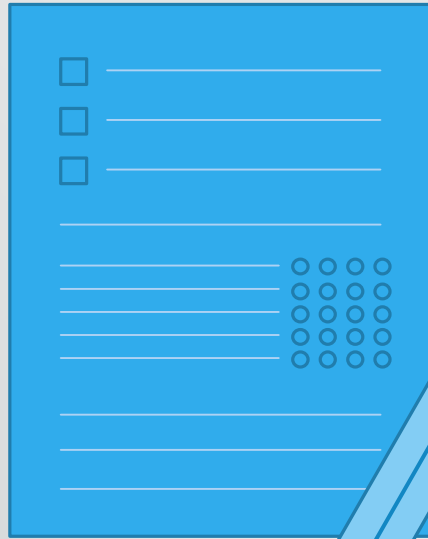
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?

**Professional development?**

**Students?**





**SCHOOL SECTOR**

61% Government  
13% Independent  
24% Catholic

**SCHOOL LOCATION**

40% Metropolitan  
44% Regional  
16% Rural

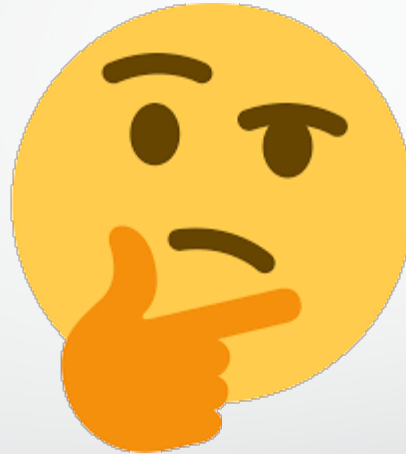
**AGE & EXPERIENCE**

Average age: 37  
Average years of  
teaching experience: 10

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

ACARA recognises the need for the Australian Curriculum to provide every opportunity possible to 'close the gap'.

(Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2016)

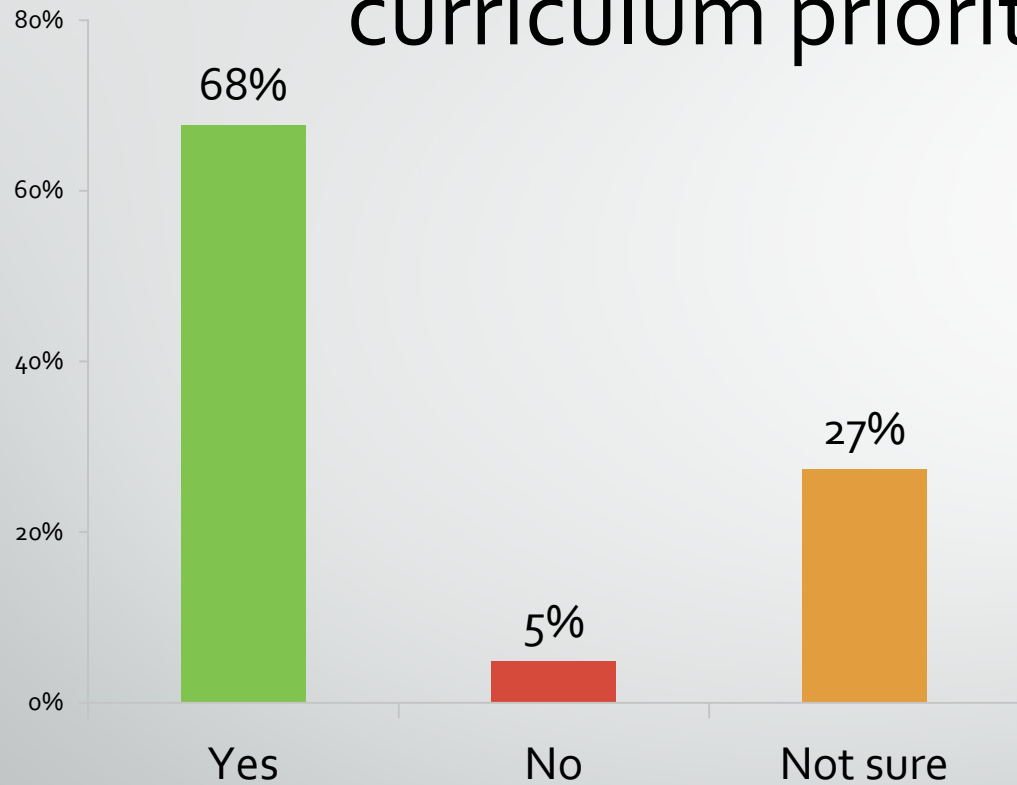


## VICTORIAN CURRICULUM

The uniqueness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the wisdom and knowledge embedded in them are **things to be highly valued by all Victorians.**

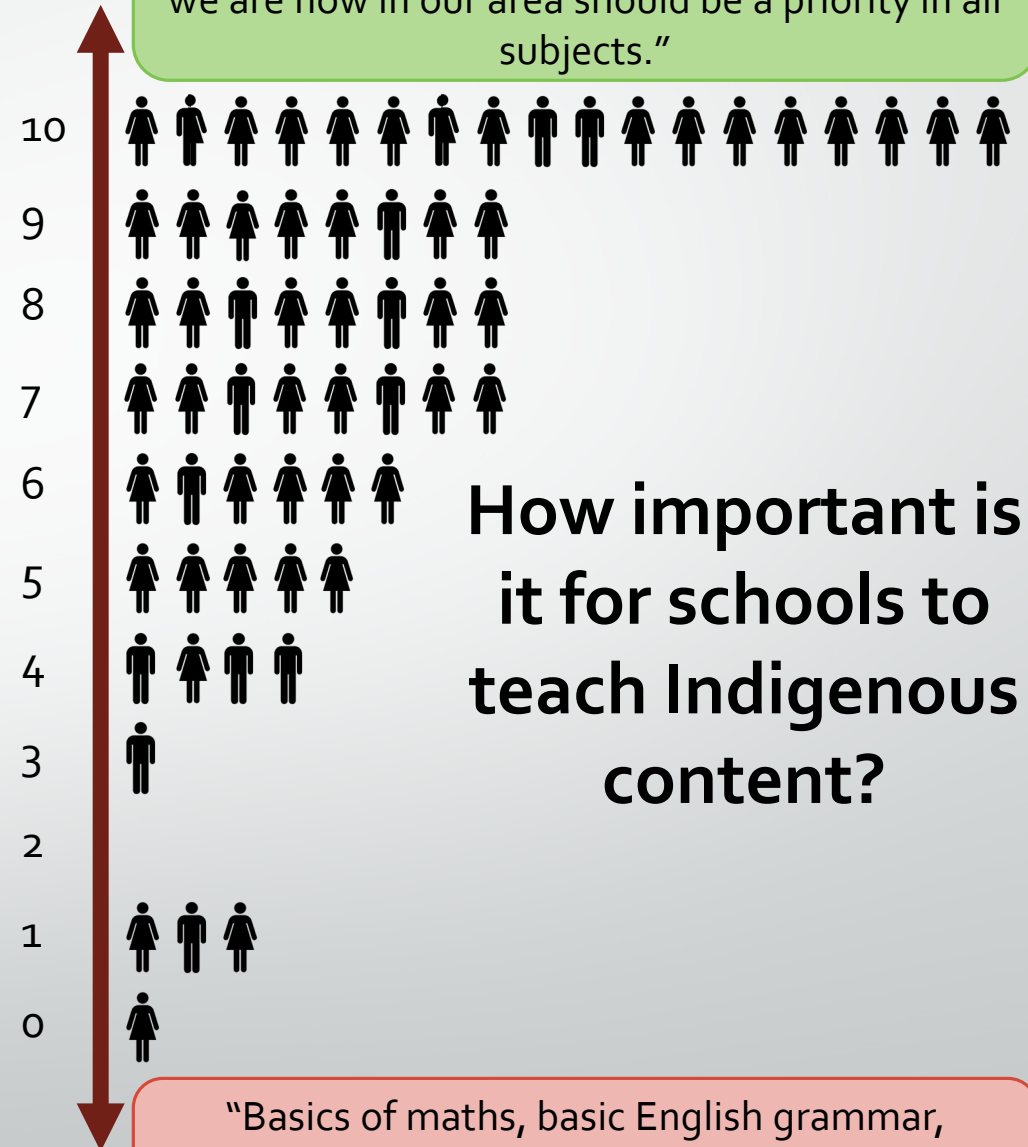
(Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, 2017)

# Teachers' attitudes towards the cross-curriculum priority



Including more Indigenous content will result in more equal educational outcomes for all students

"Aspects of the history, culture and language of the original land story and its people of where we are now in our area should be a priority in all subjects."



How important is it for schools to teach Indigenous content?

"Basics of maths, basic English grammar, healthy diet and exercise. Stop peddling the PC bs."

# Distribution of the cross-curriculum priority by subject area

## HALE

Subject area	Mentions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
Humanities	69
Arts	58
Languages	95
English	28

## STEM+HPE

Subject area	Mentions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
Science	2
Technologies	14
Mathematics	7
Health and PE	6

# Survey participants by subject area

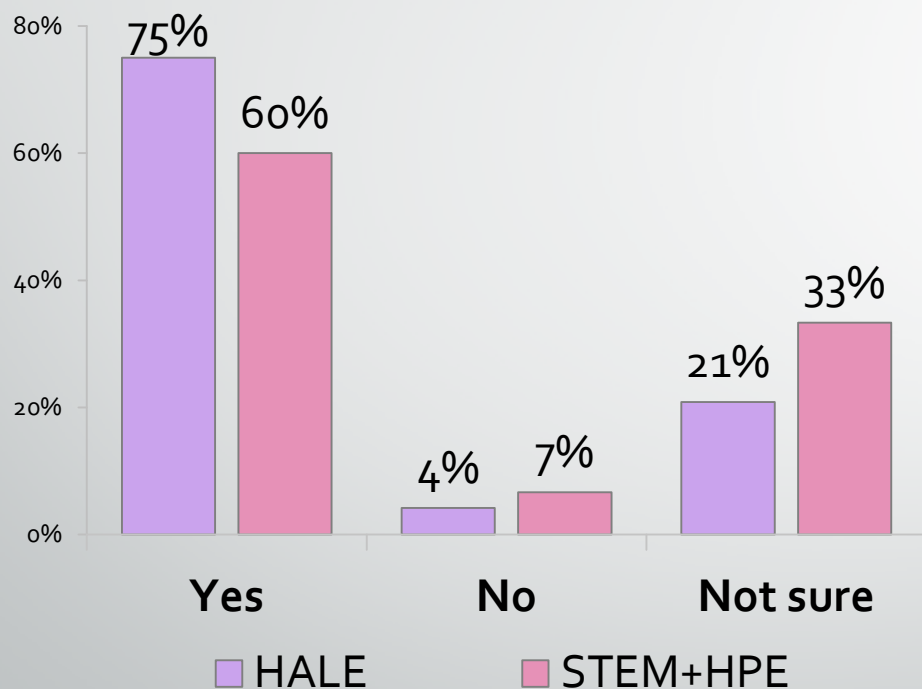
HALE

STEM+HPE

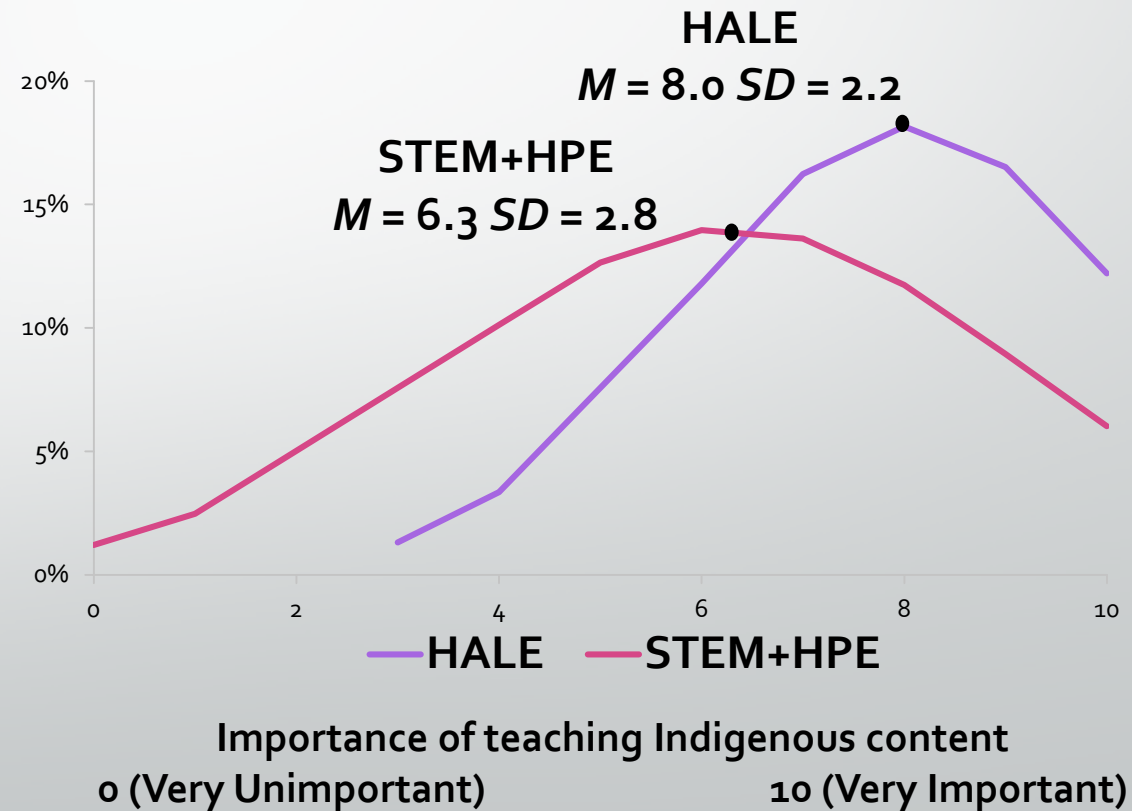




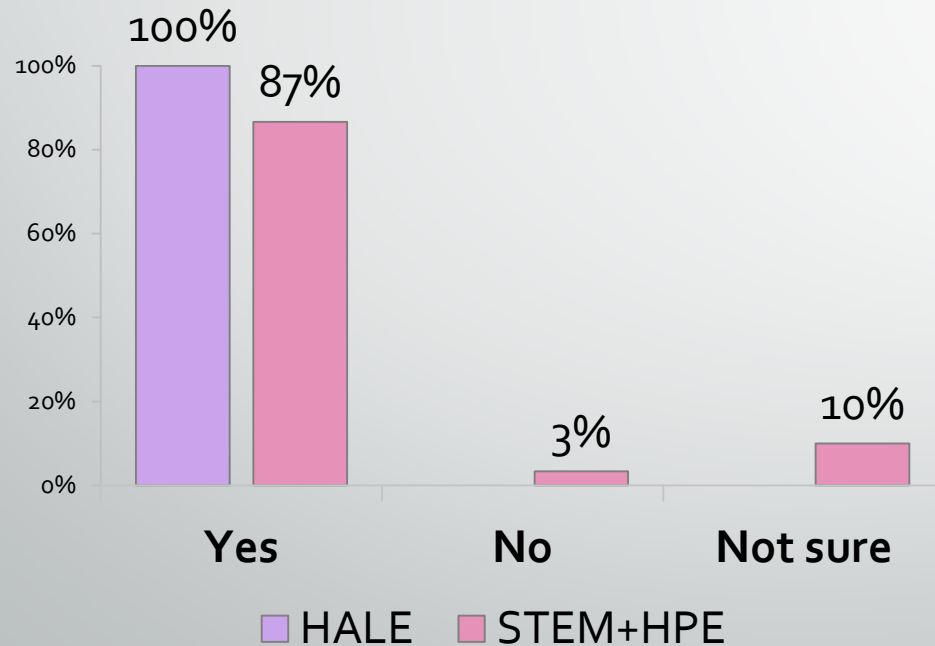
# Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures



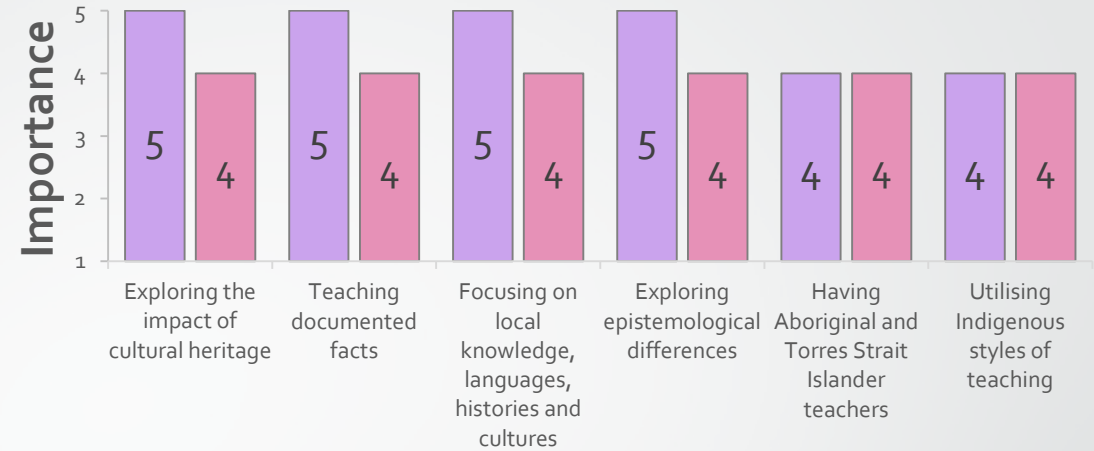
Including more Indigenous content will result in more equal educational outcomes for all students



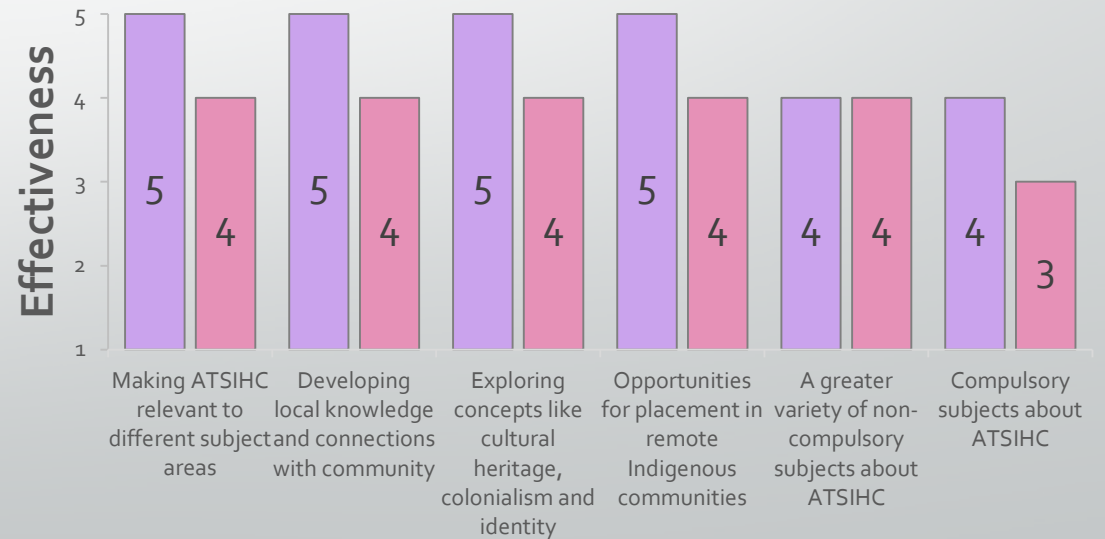
# Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures



Does it matter how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are taught?

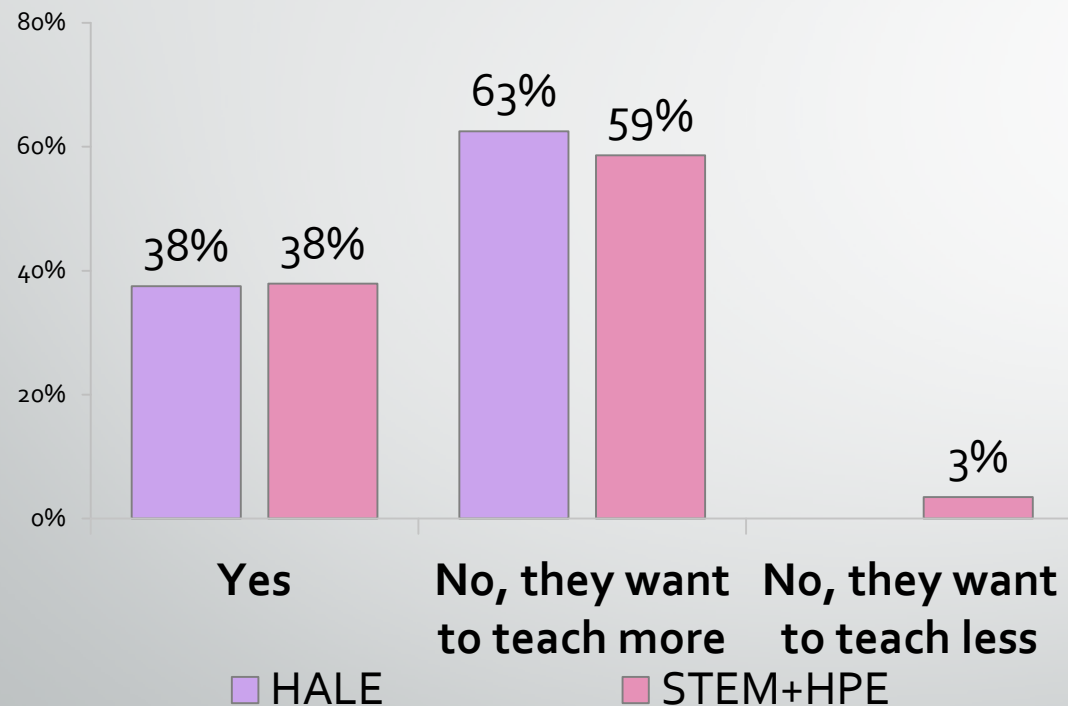


## Ways to teach Indigenous content in high schools



## Improvements for pre-service teacher education

# Deterrents to teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures



Are your colleagues satisfied with the quantity of Indigenous content they teach?

## Top 3 deterrents:

1. Other curriculum requirements needing more attention
2. Limited research and preparation time
3. Limited professional development opportunities

**In the classroom I can:**

- Teach quality, localised content in all subject areas
- Know my students' needs and perform targeted interventions
- Teach values and skills like empathy and critical thinking
- Explore multiple perspectives

Teaching  
Consulting

Incursions and excursions  
Mutual goals developed with schools

**In myself I can:**

- Build relationships
- Educate myself
- Be genuine

But I also need...

*"Don't make it a thing and just do it."*  
Survey participant

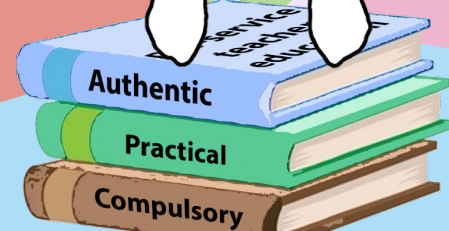
**In the school I can:**

- Regularly and meaningfully celebrate culture
- Organise incursions and excursions

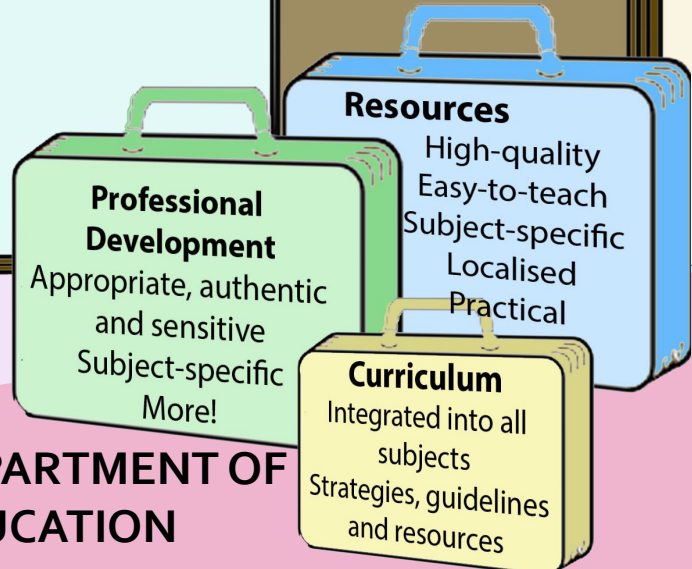
**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES**



**SCHOOL LEADERS**



**UNIVERSITIES**



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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