

ENGLISH AS ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT EAL/D

While Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country, participation in many aspects of Australian life depends on effective communication in Standard Australian English. In Australian schools, learning is accessed in English, and achievement is demonstrated through the use of the English language. For students where English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D), they require specific support to build the English language skills required for effective communication and access to the Australian Curriculum.

The purpose of the EAL/D Hub is to provide an online professional development course for educators around Australia that enables them to provide high-quality education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and in particular, those students who have first languages other than Standard Australian English and are learning Standard Australian English as an additional language or dialect. The content was developed collaboratively by experts from across Australia.

The EAL/D Hub supports teachers to build their knowledge and capabilities in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the Capability Framework –Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander EAL/D learners. The EAL/D Hub has been carefully designed to scaffold the learning with eight content areas that include several eBooks that were carefully designed to be fun and engaging. The content areas also enable educators to construct knowledge by putting the online learning into action at school. The personalised Learning Journals record the learning pathway and provide a place where educators can reflect on their learning.

EAL/D is a federal educational project that has been successfully rolled out in Queensland for teachers and educators in January 2019. As part of this project, the four other participating jurisdictions are in the process of launching the eLearning portal for educators and teachers, under the umbrella of the Department of Education. This is expected to be implemented in June 2019 and will include South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

