

School and community context: Bundjalung and Anangu – autonomy and identity

Casino is a rural town in northern NSW with a population of approximately 10 800 people. Casino High School has 744 students, many from single parent and low income families. Of these, approximately 104 students are Indigenous. The number of Indigenous students enrolled fluctuates frequently as some students move between communities or become non-attenders for periods of time.

Casino High School has offered Aboriginal Studies for students in Years 9–12 for many years. In recent years it has attracted increasing numbers of non-Indigenous as well as Indigenous students. The teaching of Aboriginal Studies is supported by involvement with a number of Aboriginal community organisations in Casino including the AMS, Lands Council, Arts group and numerous organisations that support community welfare initiatives. Additionally, the school employs Indigenous staff members in a range of capacities who also provide support for Aboriginal Studies.