Investigating Aboriginal Cultures

(6568) Statement of Attainment

QUESTIONNAIRE 2012

All new applicants and transfers from TAFE colleges must complete this questionnaire and send it in with their enrolment form.

Name ___________________________ Date of Birth ____________

Address

Postcode __________

Home phone ___________________ Work phone ___________________

Fax ___________________________ Mobile _________________________

Email ______________________________________________________

Put a tick in the box for your answer. Read the Course Information Leaflet for a description of the course.

Q1 What is your highest completed education level?

☐ Diploma or degree or equivalent
☐ TAFE Qualification
☐ Year 12 or equivalent
☐ Year 11 or equivalent
☐ Year 7-9 or equivalent
☐ Year 10 or equivalent
☐ No secondary education

Q2a In which year did you complete the above educational level? ______________

Q2b Are you still attending secondary school?

Yes ☐

No ☐
Q3  Do you have a qualification such as the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC), Certificate III in Aboriginal Studies or equivalent?

- Yes □. Attach a photocopy of your certificate.
- No □. If you are aged less than 20 years, you do not meet the entry requirement to this course. Please phone the course manager on 1300 369 598 to discuss appropriate preparation courses.
- No □. If you are aged 20 years or more you will need to demonstrate appropriate writing and reading skills to be enrolled in this course. You must complete the writing task.

Q4  Are you receiving or applying for financial assistance such as Abstudy, Austudy, or Pensioner Education Supplement etc?

- Yes □ Then you may be required to study full time. To check you are enrolled in enough modules to meet Centrelink requirements, contact Counselling on 1300 655 993.
- No □

Q5  Are you enrolled or will you enrol in Investigating Aboriginal Cultures (6568) Statement of Attainment course in some units at another TAFE college?

- Yes □ Name the TAFE College. _______________________________
  List the module(s) you are enrolled in at this TAFE College.
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
- No □.

I understand that all correspondence will be sent to the address indicated. If the address or contact telephone number changes, I will inform OTEN in writing of these changes.

I understand my enrolment application will only be processed if I have enclosed all required documents, and the handling charge.

_________________________________________  _________________________
Student signature                                      Date
Writing Task

To be completed by all new students to OTEN, including transfer students from other TAFE Colleges. There are three parts to this writing task, part A, part B and part C must be sent back with your enrolment form.

Why have you decided that you want to study Investigating Aboriginal Issues (Historical and Contemporary) Statement of Attainment?

In your response include information about:

- What you hope to achieve in your studies
- Why you have selected OTEN to study at
- How do you plan to achieve these goals in the time available

Make sure you have an introduction and conclusion, which indicate your purpose as well as good sentence structure, grammar and punctuation. Do not write your responses in point form.

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‘Going Home’ - Writing Task (A)

The park bench grew hard and uncomfortable. She had been sitting there for nearly two hours, just staring into space trying not to think of anything. She needed to clear her mind and perhaps renew her spirit. At this time her spirits were as low as they could possibly be. She also felt that this was the right place to be. She got off the bench without really knowing she’d done so and sat on the green carpet that surrounded her. As she sat down her gaze fell to the river below, dirty and polluted yet still containing life.

Yes! She was in the right place, at least for now. Being near the water always had a soothing effect on her, her people were coastal, perhaps that was why? Her hands stretched out in the grass and her fingers dug into the rich earth. Her mind began to wonder and across the river as she often did, she could imagine the land as it may once have been. The trees and bushes, clean water brimming with life, animals and the people, oh; the people! It was like watching a movie and almost being able to reach out and become part of it. To know where she fitted in the community and know all that had been denied her.

She knew her tribe and where she came from, but that was all. She felt cut off from her people because she’d grown up in another world – a white man’s world. She felt so empty deep inside, with no real sense of belonging. Worst of all she felt she had no right to go back to where her people came from – no right to call that place home!

Today it was different though, the letter in her pocket showed that. She’d been offered a job in the area that her family came from. The job was permanent and she so desperately wanted to take it. So many emotions spilt forth when she read the letter for the first time – joy, excitement, happiness but also fear and anxiety. If she took the job it would mean uprooting the family. Forcing them to leave their friends, neighbours and everything else they knew.

She felt pulled two ways. All her life she had looked after family in one way or another, her Aunt and Uncle’s children, her Sister’s children, her Mother, her younger sister when her Mother died and now her own family. There had never been time for just “HER”. Until now she had never given it a second thought, there had always been someone else who came first. She hadn’t minded though, it was just the way it was. She had always done what had to be done. Without even knowing it she was practicing a big part of her culture, she was looking after her own.

The one important thing that kept coming to her was, that if she wanted to find out about her family and her people, then she had no choice but to go. There weren’t many Elders left that knew the old stories, so not many people would be able to help her. She knew that she couldn’t properly get on with her future, unless she knew her past. She also knew that in knowing her past she
would not only find a lot of answers, but she would also have something to pass on to future generations, thus ensuring her history would not be lost.

She had been told that the earth held great strength and as she sat there on the grass finally coming to a decision, she knew that it did, her spirit had been lifted. She decided that it would have to be a joint decision; she would discuss the possibility of taking the job with her family. After all, the move would affect them all. She would talk about the importance of being in that particular area and the need she had for so long unknowingly felt. The reason that she was drawn to the sea or river, whatever was at hand. The need to “Go Home”!

She is gone now “my Grandmother”, but she gave me a gift greater than gold. She gave to me the sense of belonging and all the stories of my tribe. She began with this one for as she told it, this is when she found her way home.
# Writing Task (A) ‘Going Home’

## Question

1. What made you realise that the person in this story is Aboriginal? Write down what it was that told you this.

2. Why was she sitting in the park, was there a reason or was it because she just needed to be away from family to think?
3. Why was she feeling the way she was, was she upset or was it something more?

4. In your own words explain why you think the letter she had with her was so important?
5. In the third paragraph she spoke of having “no right to call that place home!” What did she mean by this?

6. What things did she need to consider before she could make a decision?
<table>
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<th>7. Read through the story again and think about who wrote the story, was it the person in it? If not who?</th>
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<td>8. Think about the story you have just read and write down your thoughts about it. What was the story really about? How did it make you feel? What decision do you think she should have made?</td>
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9. Was this an important story to pass on in regards to family history, explain why?

10. Did this story give you a better understanding of what ‘Going Home’ means to an Aboriginal person? Explain why?
Writing Task (B)

For this writing task you will need to write an essay of at least 500 words entitled ‘White Australia has a Black History’. You will need to reference your work and attach a bibliography.