



Joint Media Release

**Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion
Member for Flynn,
Mr Ken O'Dowd MP**

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Remote School Attendance Strategy getting kids get back to school in Flynn

Schools across Australia are returning for another year with around 14,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students supported to attend school through the Coalition Government's successful Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS).

Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said RSAS has achieved a lot in the last five years since it was established by the Coalition Government in 2014, getting more children to attend school, creating almost 500 remote jobs and bringing a new focus to school attendance.

"The Coalition Government made school attendance a key priority when it was elected in 2013 and RSAS has increased attendance rates in 84 communities in remote parts of the country," Minister Scullion said.

Over the next three years, we will work with communities to support more Indigenous children to attend school including through a stronger focus on case management with families and communities and an increase in local decision making.

"Labor did not take action on addressing remote school attendance when they were in Government and have not committed to supporting RSAS and the local jobs it provides. This means that the jobs for 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school attendance officers are at risk ahead of the upcoming Federal election.

"The Coalition Government believes that every child, no matter where they live, deserves an education as the foundation to a successful life. We will do everything we can to ensuring families and communities are sending their children to school," Minister Scullion said.

Member for Flynn, Mr Ken O'Dowd MP, said RSAS is making a real difference in Grey, where local teams support families to find what works best for them to improve attendance and education outcomes.

"Every community in Australia is different. Each has different cultures, strengths, aspirations and needs, as well as different services and infrastructure.

