

# Aboriginal Studies

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

## Aboriginal Studies - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

### ***What will I be doing in this course?***

Aboriginal Studies provides a unique experience for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Aboriginal students are provided with an opportunity for cultural affirmation and positive educational experiences while non-Aboriginal students are able to 'learn together' with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

All students are encouraged to take an active role in the process of reconciliation.

### ***The Preliminary course***

The Preliminary course consists of three areas of study and a skills-based approach as preparation for the major project in the HSC course. The three study areas look at the history and experiences of Aboriginal people from before European invasion until the 1960's. These studies will be centred around an Australian and international Indigenous community.

## ***The HSC Course***

The HSC course focuses on issues relating to Aboriginal people in a contemporary perspective.

*Social Justice and Human Rights* investigates issues from a global perspective on topics such as health, education or housing.

*Aboriginality and the Land or Heritage and Identity* focus on contemporary issues relating to a local Aboriginal community

The major project is a research task of the student's own choice, negotiated with their teacher and Aboriginal community members.

### ***What should I be able to do at the end of the course?***

Students will be able to:

- Understand significant issues related to Aboriginal peoples
- Investigate issues from a variety of sources including the use of information technology
- Conduct fieldwork including community consultation
- Analyse and evaluate information from a variety of perspectives
- Communicate information effectively using a variety of media
- Develop informed and responsible **values** and **attitudes** about:
  - Social justice
  - Inter-cultural understanding
  - Empathy with Aboriginal peoples' experiences and views
  - Ethical practices

### ***How will this course help me in the future?***

The knowledge, skills and competencies developed in Aboriginal Studies are useful in courses studied at university and TAFE, the world of work and for everyday life. They are particularly applicable for law, policing, teaching, medicine, nursing, environmental studies, travel and tourism, communications, social work and journalism.