

AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN REMOTE EDUCATION



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australian Strategic Partnerships in Remote Education (ASPIRE) connects Australian experience and expertise in remote education with partners in the Indo-Pacific region to provide learning continuity, access and equity, in particular for disadvantaged students.

Why ASPIRE

Disruptions to education programs due to COVID-19 pose a real threat to the learning, skills and human development priorities of Indo-Pacific countries. By building more inclusive and resilient education systems, ASPIRE aims to contribute to immediate and long-term educational and economic recovery in the Indo-Pacific region.

A leader in distance learning for more than 100 years, Australia has delivered flexible education programs to support students living in rural areas, remote Indigenous communities and with individual learning needs.

Australia is also known for its collaborative and multi-agency approach to strengthening education systems; most recently demonstrated by its rapid shift to remote education during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on these unique contexts, Australia has developed a number of key strengths in remote education, including:

- curriculum content
- pedagogy
- pre-service teacher education
- teacher development and professional learning
- learning technologies
- student engagement
- student assessment
- student wellbeing
- student-centred learning models
- inclusion and equity in learning
- parent and community engagement
- evidence-informed policies, standards and regulatory frameworks

What's involved

ASPIRE will establish a limited number of partnerships to assist Indo-Pacific partners to build or expand on their existing remote education programs. A small grants process will facilitate these partnerships.

Indo-Pacific governments and educational institutions interested in accessing Australian expertise will be identified through ASPIRE. These Indo-Pacific partners will be connected with Australian institutions with proven models, tools and resources in remote education that can assist them to implement their chosen initiative.

Once the Indo-Pacific partner has identified the remote education support they are looking for, Australian and Indo-Pacific partners will work together to develop a proof of concept. This will be based on the individual context, systems and policies of the Indo-Pacific partner.

Remote education approaches

Australian experiences in the learning approaches outlined below can add value to existing responses in the Indo-Pacific region.

Learning Approach	Examples	Benefits
Remote Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile or radio broadcasting • TV broadcasting/streaming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable during crisis or extended periods of absence • Quick set up provides temporary access to instruction and support materials • Works with existing technologies • Immediate implementation • Direct replacement for face-to-face teaching • Real-time interaction between teachers and students
Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer-supported collaborative learning • Game-based learning • Live lessons, synchronous learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between students and teachers • Accessible from any device, anywhere, synchronously or asynchronously • Learning analytics to monitor student engagement and progress
Blended Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous (live) / asynchronous (not live) • Face-to-face/remote blended • Differentiated learning • Flipped classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalise on existing learning resources in schools • May be as effective as classroom learning • Teacher-student connection maintained through video software • Accessible through any device • Allows for asynchronous learning
Distance Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper-based packs • Correspondence learning • Non-computer based distance learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal equipment or resourcing required • Assembly may be quicker than digital resources • Limited additional teacher training required

Benefits of ASPIRE

Australian partners will:

- Collaborate and share their expertise and innovation in remote education with partners in the Indo-Pacific region
- Build partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries which can endure beyond the life of ASPIRE.

Indo-Pacific partners will:

- Lead and implement high-quality, innovative and evidence-based remote teaching and learning approaches that align with, and add value to, existing education initiatives
- Draw on Australian knowledge, experience and expertise in remote education to enhance current educational responses to COVID-19.

Get involved

To learn more about ASPIRE or to get involved, contact: education@dfat.gov.au

Website: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/investment-priorities/education-health/education/stability>

ASPIRE supports and contributes to DFAT's [Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response](#) and is managed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).



Australian Council for Educational Research