



# **ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: General capabilities**

**For teaching in 2027**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

## **Background**

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment to investigate the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the general capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the general capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the general capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These general capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

## **Important information**

### **WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)**

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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## Representation of the general capabilities

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia General course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

### Critical and creative thinking

Students enhance their critical and creative thinking skills through the study of an Aboriginal language of Western Australia (an Aboriginal language) and gain an insight into culturally appropriate procedures and protocols and language use. Content in the course is presented through a range of learning contexts, encouraging students to compare information and ideas from diverse perspectives. By interpreting spoken and written texts, students strengthen their ability to identify and process information and engage in logical and reflective thinking. By building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the language, they learn to assess how language conveys meaning and how context, purpose and audience influence communication.

Through the course, students learn and practise language learning and communication strategies. These strategies support and enhance the development of literacy skills and enable further development of cognitive skills through thinking critically and making connections. The process of transferring linguistic and cultural knowledge and applying them to new contexts fosters students' metacognition, problem-solving abilities and analytical skills.

### Intercultural understanding

Intercultural understanding is core to language learning. In learning an Aboriginal language, students develop an appreciation of languages, cultures and beliefs, including their own. In the course, students explore key aspects of the culture, such as the environment and seasons, and cover common vocabulary relating to people, family, relationships, kinship groupings and celebrations. This helps students to develop connections with communities and Country, become aware of similarities and differences, cultivate mutual respect and understanding, and improve communication.

The course also provides opportunities for students to apply communication strategies in culturally and linguistically diverse contexts. They understand the interconnection between language and culture, gaining insights into how cultural values and beliefs shape communication practices.

Intercultural understanding is one of the five content areas of this course.

## Literacy

Students build their literacy capacity as they use an Aboriginal language to listen to, read, view and respond to a range of texts, communicate in spoken interaction, and write texts in the language for different purposes and contexts. They develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the language and apply their knowledge of linguistic resources to exchange information, ideas and opinions about relationships and responsibilities between people and Country, including oral language and cultural practices and technology. They also explore the impact of contemporary Aboriginal languages on traditional language use and explore language revival and maintenance initiatives at national and international levels.

For language learners, literacy involves skills and knowledge that need guidance, time and support to develop. These skills include developing an ability to decode and encode from sound to written systems; mastering grammatical, orthographic and textual conventions; and developing semantic, pragmatic and critical literacy skills. For learners of an Aboriginal language of Western Australia, development in the language also extends literacy development in general.

### Addressing the other general capabilities

Although the following general capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia General Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate these capabilities into the teaching and learning program.

- Digital literacy
- Ethical understanding
- Numeracy
- Personal and social capability

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

### Summary representation of the general capabilities in the Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia General course

A representation of the general capabilities for the two years is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia (GEABL)	ATAR	✓			✓	✓		
Year 12	Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia (GTABL)	ATAR	✓			✓	✓		

#### Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability