

Be You video transcript

Provide flexible, culturally responsive education in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions

Marion Cheedy

As an AIEO, that's an Aboriginal Education Officer here in the school, we create space for kids by being here and greeting them in the morning when they come in, so they've got someone who they know that is here.

Well, the teacher is there to teach the Standard Australian English, my role there is to support the child, and the teacher as well, but to make it clearer for the kid to understand what the teacher is saying by using their home language.

A day in the school for me here at the Roebourne District High School is a very busy, a very busy day.

Being on time, I guess, and showing kids good work ethics, you know, when you come into school so that they can see "Oh, she's on time", and teaching them to be nice to each other, to be able to get on with each other as a family and as people that have got to come and share the one space.

We're all coming here to learn, so that's one of the things we want to teach the kids. We come to learn here. We bridge the gap between the school and community by going out to see the caregiver or the parents about what's happening with the child at school.

We don't want to just go out there and approach the parents every time they're doing something that's terrible or bad, that they've been fighting or swearing or throwing stuff around in the school.

We want to go out to the parents and say, "Oh this is what your child done today". "They wrote a full sentence with all the punctuation marks", or "They said nice things to somebody".

I think it's very important that the kids are learning language and Aboriginal language, whether it's Yinjibarndi or whether it's another language that they learn.

When we go out onto Country, and if you can't talk in language or understand some things in language, then you won't be able to communicate with the Country. Because you know, when you got out there, you got to learn how to talk in language.

An AIEO is very important in a classroom, so they're still acting as that link between home and school.

If they find it hard to talk to the teacher, then they can talk to the AIEO. They'll understand better with what the child's going through.

I am well-known in this community. I was born here. I was raised up here. I've worked in the school now for a while and the little silver car that I drive, all the kids know my little car.

When I drive past and they're waving at me, and if I'm driving past and I don't wave at them then they'll pull me up and they say, "Ms. Cheedy you didn't wave at me, you drove past me, you didn't wave at me". I said, "Oh, gosh, sorry, next time I'll wave!"