1. In February 2017, the Australian Government released the Prime Minister’s annual report on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage, which specifies targets across a range of domains, including education. The report notes that both nationally and in Queensland, progress against three of the four education targets – in early childhood education, school attendance, and NAPLAN performance – is not on track.
2. Although the Queensland Government acknowledges that further work is necessary in order to deliver on the Closing the Gap targets within the timeframes set in the report, Queensland has made significant progress against all targets and leads the nation in terms of Closing the Gap on Indigenous educational disadvantage. This progress can be attributed to a highly visible central commitment, clear and consistent guidance to school leaders, and the provision of support and flexible resourcing to allow schools and regions to meet students’ needs.
3. In order to sustain the progress made against targets to date and to accelerate progress against targets that are currently considered not on track, further strategies and initiatives are being implemented to increase Indigenous early childhood education enrolments; lift school attendance; improve performance in reading, literacy and numeracy; and Close the Gap on Year 12 attainment.
4. Cabinet noted the 2016 progress against the Closing the Gap targets for education in Queensland’s State Schools.
5. Cabinet noted the targeted work being undertaken by the Department of Education and Training to address disparity in educational outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students against the priority areas identified in the Closing the Gap report.
6. Cabinet noted the efforts planned in 2017 to respond to the nationally-identified priority areas in Indigenous education, including Closing the Gap on Year 3 reading.
7. *Attachments*
* Nil.