1. **What are the benefits to my school for participating in this program?**
   - Creates a sense of positive Indigenous identity throughout your school community
   - Provides an avenue for a united student and community voice
   - Improves the relationship with the local community
   - Enhances community engagement.
   - Nurtures a sense of belonging for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families
   - Promotes cultural safety in the school, enabling students to feel comfortable identifying as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage
   - Promotes Indigenous Reconciliation and Recognition in the local community

2. **Are there additional resources we require or associated costs to participate in the program?**
   - The amount of resources used is dependent on your school. You may consider providing similar merchandise that is given to school student leaders, for example: shirts, badges or other related items.
   - The only required expense is the transport and accommodation costs of sending the Ambassadors to the regional forum once per year.

3. **How do we choose an Ambassador (i.e. based on academic merit? Community contribution? Other?)**
   - This decision should be made in consultation with your local Indigenous community. However, below is suggested criteria you may wish to consider.
   - **Criteria/guidelines for selection of students**
     - Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
     - Students to be nominated in Year 11 for the role in Year 12 (in some cases schools may consider a Year 10 student going into Year 11 in the following year)
     - Attainment of a sound level of achievement, or above, in the majority of subjects
     - Desire to take a leadership role in their school and community
     - Desire to promote a positive sense of Indigenous identity and increase awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture
     - Possess, or show potential to develop, strong communication skills
     - Regular school attendance
     - Display high levels of commitment towards studies

**NOTE:** It is recommended that a minimum of three people be on the selection panel (with at least one of these being from the local Indigenous community). This panel may include an Indigenous worker, Indigenous parent or Local Elder.
4. **What is the weekly/monthly time commitment required by the Ambassador?**
   - This is dependent on your school, but we recommend a similar time commitment to those students who are part of the student leadership team.
   - A fortnightly meeting with the staff and a monthly meeting with school administration is recommended.

5. **What year level should the nominated students be?**
   - Students are to be nominated in Year 11 for the role in Year 12 (in some cases schools may consider a Year 10 student going into Year 11 in the following year).

6. **Are there particular people/organisations we should involve in this initiative?**
   - Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives
   - Local Elders
   - Indigenous teachers or Indigenous workers in your school
   - School administration representative
   - Student leaders’ support teacher

7. **Are there proven success stories? Case studies?**
   - Yes. There are schools that trialled the initial model that can be contacted for feedback. Contact Ivana Waddington for more details. See contact information below.

8. **Are there specific events or functions outside of our school that students need to attend?**
   - Yes. They will be asked to attend a regional Indigenous Student Ambassador Forum during the year.
   - Represent the school at NAIDOC and other Indigenous functions/events.

9. **What are some of the expectations and responsibilities placed on the Ambassadors?**
   - Acknowledgement of Country at school assemblies and special events
   - Organising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander “Buddies” for all incoming Year 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and connecting them to the school
   - Welcoming of Elders in the school on a regular basis (e.g. morning teas, breakfasts, etc.)
   - Supporting community education councillors, Indigenous education workers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to organise events such as NAIDOC and other school/community functions
   - Supporting the induction of new staff to the school and introducing them to community - perhaps visiting local sacred sites and providing a history of the town/region
   - Participate in the Constitutional Convention, held every year
   - Participate in leadership events held, throughout the year
   - Help to create a culturally safe environment in the school and community

For more information, please contact Ivana on M: 0414 900 641 or E: ivana.waddington@dete.qld.gov.au