A group of Indigenous Australians, likely from the Kurna people, are captured in a traditional dance or ceremony. They are wearing orange loincloths and holding green leafy branches. The background is a blurred natural setting.

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Kurna people who are the true Traditional Custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past, present and future as well as to other Aboriginal people that are present here today.



# Numeracy, Mathematics and Indigenous Learners National Conference

**Hebersham Public School**  
*Monday Maths Mob*

Presented by:

Sue Connell (Principal)  
Mona McFarlane  
(Aboriginal Education Officer)  
Dani Upton  
(Primary School Teacher)





# Make It Count

★ Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) initiative

★ Eight clusters of schools across Australia, two of which are in N.S.W

★ Hebersham PS is a member of the Dharug Cluster along with Doonside PS and Blakett PS

★ Hebersham's key programs under Make It Count are:

- ★ Monday Maths Mob
- ★ Koori Club





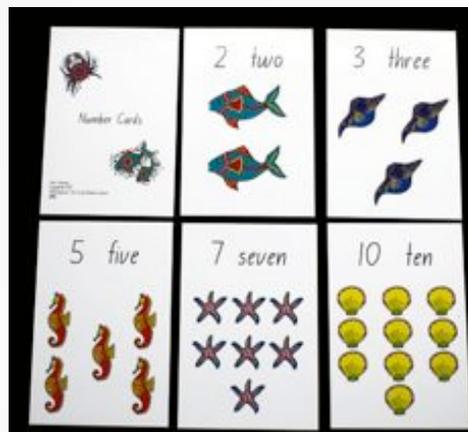
# Make It Count

## Our rationale:

- ★ Due to Best Start, BST and NAPLAN results, the Dharug Cluster chose to focus on Maths in the early years - Preschool to Year 2. At Hebersham PS we began with our Kindergarten students as this is a child's first year of compulsory schooling and it is here that most formal mathematical learning begins.

## Our aim:

- ★ To develop sustainable practices in Maths in order to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.





# Monday Maths Mob

## Our Method:

*Learning mathematics may involve a great more than mathematics for Aboriginal children. There is a need to recognise the cultural, family and community contexts and make the learning relevant and connected to the real world (Howard 2011)*





# Monday Maths Mob



Who is involved:

★ Hebersham PS staff (Dani Upton, Mona McFarlane, Michele Clark and Kindergarten teachers)



★ Parents and Carers



★ Stage 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students



★ Community agencies





# Monday Maths Mob

What does it look like:

- ★ Maths Mob runs each Monday from 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- ★ In Semester 1 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kindergarten students come together in the library
- ★ In Semester 2 - all Kindergarten children take part in Maths Mob in their own classroom
- ★ Parents and Carers are invited to come along
- ★ Stage 3 buddy classes take turns rotation to join in





# Monday Maths Mob

## Changes and challenges:

- ★ There has been an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kindergarten students from 7 students in 2010 to 22 in 2012
- ★ Originally the program was intended to be led by class teachers on a rotational basis however the importance of building relationships meant that one teacher would lead the program to ensure consistency
- ★ Locating and making relevant resources for Maths Mob
- ★ Maintaining parent and carer participation
- ★ Organising and training stage 3 students on how to assist Kindergarten children rather than telling them answers.





# Monday Maths Mob

How are we measuring its success:

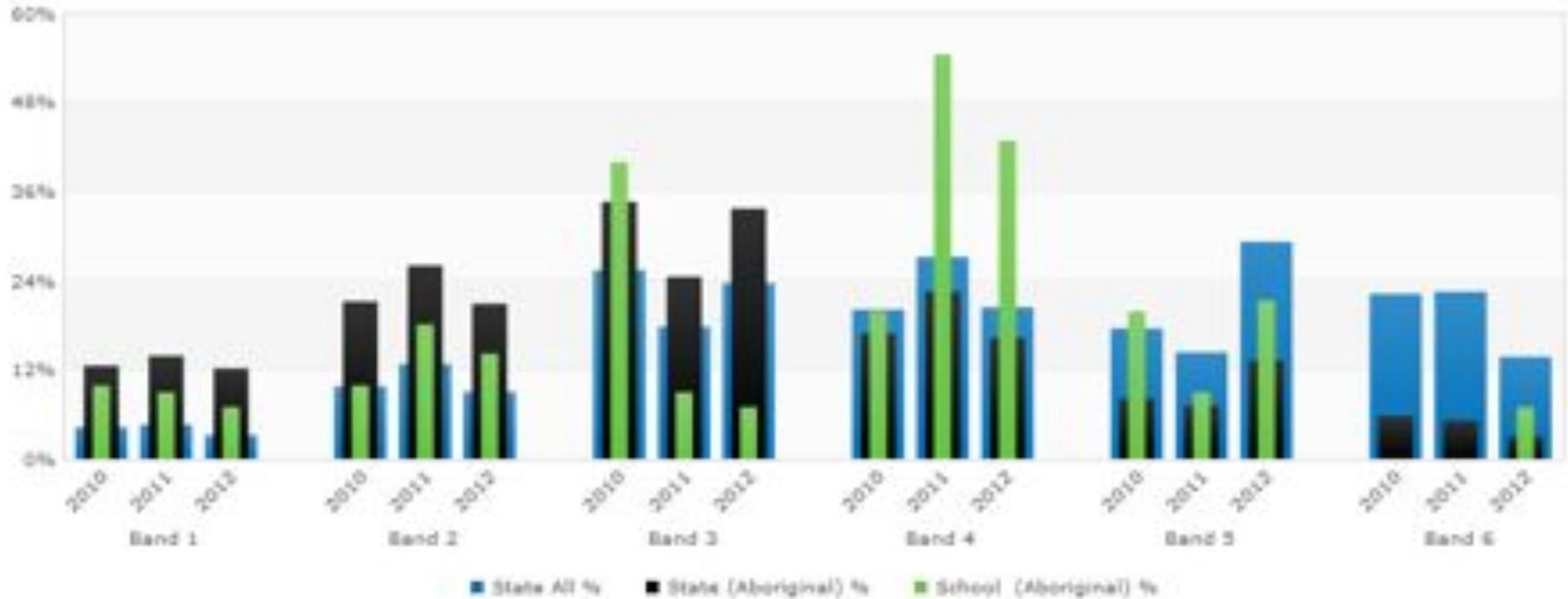
- ★ **Engagement:** student surveys, videos, photographs, student interviews, parent interviews, anecdotal evidence
- ★ **Mathematical knowledge:** teacher observation, discussion with Kindergarten class teachers, Best Start data, work samples
- ★ **Cultural knowledge:** teacher observation of student discussions and questions





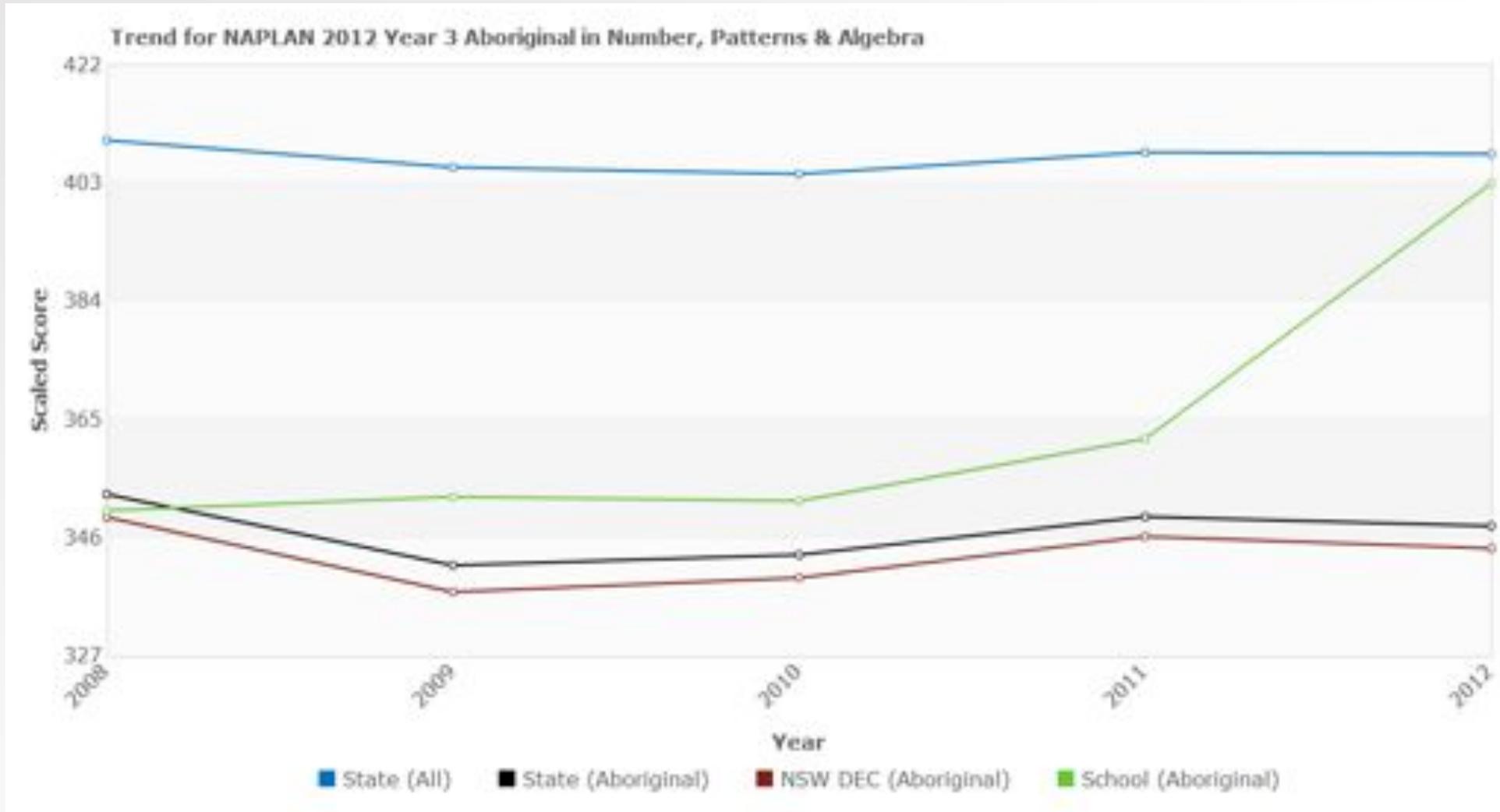
# NAPLAN Data 2012

Percentage in Bands for NAPLAN 2012 Year 3 Aboriginal in Number, Patterns & Algebra





# NAPLAN Data 2012





# Monday Maths Mob

Where to from here:

- ★ Embedding Monday Maths Mob into the Kindergarten curriculum
- ★ Expanding the principles of the program beyond Kindergarten
- ★ Encouraging teachers to explore ways to plan culturally responsive programs in Maths
- ★ Formalise data collection
- ★ Continue to build relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents, carers and community members
- ★ Maintain links with cluster schools post Make It Count
- ★ Continue to investigate current research and discuss ideas with our critical friend (Professor Peter Howard) to find the best ways to cater for our children

