

Partner Update

February 2016

Ganbina - Agents of change

Education unlocks Indigenous empowerment



by **ANTHONY CAVANAGH**, CEO, Ganbina

Sixty per cent of all Indigenous 17-24 year olds in Australia are not fully engaged with work or study after leaving school (non-Ganbina participants). Many of them are capable of achieving so much more than this.

At Ganbina, we know that the path to successful empowerment of Indigenous children is an educational journey that starts at a very young age.

It begins when a child starts primary school and continues on through their secondary school education, to vocational training or tertiary education.

For this reason, Ganbina works very closely with 20 primary schools and 10 secondary schools in the Greater Goulburn Valley; and with five universities in Melbourne.

This ensures that we can provide continuous, ongoing support to our young Indigenous participants every step of the way in their educational journey.

Our sincere thanks to all our educational partners who enable us to work with their Indigenous students.

Together, we are equipping them with the belief, confidence, courage and skills to fulfil their potential and so become 'agents of change' within their own communities.

Together, we are making sure that they will be able to carve out a brighter future for themselves, their children and their children's children.



Goulburn Valley Grammar School

Goulburn Valley Grammar School is one of 10 secondary schools in the wider Shepparton area which partners with Ganbina.

"I have the utmost respect for Ganbina," says Principal Mark Torriero. "They act as a really important bridge for young people between family and school."

"Working across the full spectrum of primary, secondary and tertiary education, and employment, they are the one constant in young Indigenous lives."

"For students who are at risk, that type of support is absolutely critical. It's very easy for students to get lost when they transition from one place to another."

"Most importantly, Ganbina helps young Indigenous people to believe in themselves and achieve their potential."



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Students from the Wannik Dance Academy at Mooroopna Secondary College performing at the 2015 Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards.



Wannik Dance Academy

The Wannik Dance Academy at Mooroopna Secondary College is an initiative of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The College has one of the largest numbers of Indigenous students in the area.

The Academy is designed to provide a specific dance program, which is aligned to the regular school curriculum, for Koorie girls in Years 7-12.

“Our program aims to increase student engagement, attendance and retention rates, provide mentoring, increase confidence and knowledge of their culture, so that they can develop successful pathways,” says Coordinator Kate Stewart.

“The aims of Wannik and Ganbina are very much aligned. As a result, we have a huge success rate here with our students achieving really strong pathways throughout school and after school.

“Ganbina works with us to help engage the students with their education and help them manage their money in terms of uniform costs, books and fees. They also take them on industry tours in preparation for work experience and career planning.

“They also support our students who are doing tertiary studies in Melbourne. That’s really important because a lot of our students just aren’t used to living in a big city.”

Gowrie Street Primary School

Gowrie Street Primary School in Shepparton has a large Koorie student base which is almost 30 per cent of the school population of 272 students.



“Ganbina supports many of our students with scholarships which is fantastic,” says Principal Travis Eddy.

“Ganbina also supports them culturally which is a concept we are very strong on here at Gowrie Street.

“In the last two generations, many Indigenous people were cut off from their culture and a lot of people lost their sense of who they are. Helping children to reconnect with their culture is very important so they can develop pride and confidence in who they are.

“Ganbina’s CEO came along last year and took part in our ‘Be a Principal for the Day’ program. It was a great way for both of us to get a perspective on how leadership works in connected but different settings.”



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