

Support Structures for Aboriginal Students



Background

- Paralowie R-12 School is a Category 2 site
- ~120 Aboriginal students attend Paralowie R-12 School

Staff

- Paralowie employs the following staff to support Aboriginal students:
 - Senior Leader: Aboriginal Education & STEM (1.0)
 - Coordinator: Aboriginal Education R-12 (1.0)
 - ASETO: High School, Years 7-12 (1.0)
 - ACEO: Primary School (1.0)
 - ACEO: SAASTA (0.2)
 - Tutors: (1.2)

Relationships

- Aboriginal Education Room is called 'Tirkanthi' – a Kurna word for 'learning'
- Tirkanthi is open before school, recess and lunch for students to study, meet, play or chat
- We have strong positive relationships with the Aboriginal students and their families
- We have a termly BBQ or Pizza Night for all Aboriginal students and their families
- We have regular contact with families through school, phone and/or home visits

Support for Culture

- Acknowledgements are delivered at assemblies, Open Night and all important occasions
- We have a Kurna Language Program for all Aboriginal students in Years 5, 6, 7 & 8, with the aim to increase this to more year levels
- Partnership with Tauondi Aboriginal College which includes language, dance, along with staff training and development
- Major Aboriginal occasions celebrated across the whole school, such as Reconciliation Week
- In-class cultural lessons delivered by Aboriginal staff
- Regular awards for students: Positive Behaviour, High Attendance and Academic Achievement
- We have a music band of mainly Aboriginal students getting ready to play at significant events
- Yearly awards night to acknowledge high achieving Aboriginal students

Wellbeing Support

- We offer a basketball program on Wednesday and Friday mornings for all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students to participate
- Aboriginal Gardening Club to assist with the Paralowie Community Garden
- Connected with the school's Wellbeing Hub and have access to Social Workers, Psychologists, and Psychosocial support, such as Centacare, InComPro and other agencies

Academic Support

- Academic support and/or tutoring accessible for all Aboriginal students
- Connected with the Workabout Centre to offer additional training / course opportunities
- We offer FLO programs for disengaged Aboriginal students

System Support

- Detailed and up-to-date records and analysis of student data

And most importantly, we focus on each Aboriginal student to give them the support they need to be strong and successful individuals.

Please direct any questions to Tom Putnam.

Dr Tom Putnam

Aboriginal Education Coordinator

Paralowie R-12 School

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