School Community Partnership Agreement

This memorandum of understanding is a commitment by both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Whitfield State School.

We will work closely together for the benefit of our children’s education and participation.

Signed at whole school assembly

Friday 20th September 2013
1 PURPOSE OF THIS AGREEMENT:
This agreement outlines the shared intentions and accountabilities of Whitfield State School personnel (school leaders, all teachers, and all other personnel) and the school’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members (parents, care givers, elders, students) to work proactively and collaboratively to improve the learning outcomes of our ATSI students in a culturally safe and supportive environment.

2 PRINCIPLES OF THIS AGREEMENT
Whitfield State School personnel (school leaders, all teachers, all other personnel) and the school’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members (elders, parents, care givers, and students) will be committed to the following principles:
- Understand that closing the gap between the learning outcomes of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and all our other students is the highest priority for the actions driven by this agreement.
- Accept no excuses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students under achieving in our school.
- Engage parents and extended families in the learning of their children.
- Acknowledge and support the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait families as the key providers of traditional authority structures and recognise and promote their role within our school community.
- Enhance reconciliation with the Whitfield State school community.
- Enhance our full school community’s engagement with and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander cultures.
- Promote full and engaged school attendance by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students on the basis that every day counts.
- Promote goodwill, cooperation, collaboration and coordination of effort in the partnership for enhanced student learning.
- Accept that all (school personnel, ATSI parents, care givers and students) involved in this agreement must walk the talk.

3 WORKING OBJECTIVES
For Whitfield State School and its linked Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities to:

3.1 Develop and implement a Next Steps Action Plan which will give effect to the purpose and the principles of this Agreement.
3.2 Develop a spirit of cooperation, goodwill, respectful cultural awareness and partnership and work collaboratively around agreed activities.
3.3 Communicate respectfully and fully to our school’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members the ongoing actions and outcomes which result from this Agreement.

4 PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT:
4.1 This School Community Partnership Agreement will operate unless otherwise agreed between Whitfield State School and the school’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members until such time as a written statement from either party advises otherwise.
4.2 The Agreement and embedded purpose, principles, objectives and other arrangements may be renegotiated at any time during the period of the arrangement, with the agreement of both parties.

5 THE PARTIES AGREE THAT:
5.1 If any actions and projects are initiated, that all the parties will develop and implement them within the spirit of this agreement.
5.2 This is not a legally binding document and its provisions do not create rights, obligations or duties for either party.
5.3 The document merely records the mutual intentions of the parties to work together collaboratively for the benefit of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in our school community.

This School Community Partnership Agreement was negotiated between:

Name: Jaimie Maruwan AND Name: Tony Constable
Position: Parent AND Position: Principal
Signature: JMM AND Signature: FC
Date: 20/9/2013 AND Date: 26 September 2013

AND

Name: Gary Alofa
Position: Parent
Signature: GL
Date: 20/9/13

Whitfield State School
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