

# Supporting Aboriginal Students 2016



## **SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL STUDENTS**

In addition to funds allocated to assist teaching and learning for all students in NSW Public Schools, additional funds are provided to support Aboriginal students through:

- Equity loading for Aboriginal students
- Personalised Learning Support for Aboriginal students in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10
- Individual Sponsorships for Aboriginal students in Years 11 and 12.

The starting point for initiatives to support Aboriginal students is the student's own aspirational goal setting as documented in the students' Personalised Learning Pathway (PLP).

An effective PLP

- engages students in discussing their aspirational goals
- contains specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound (SMART) goals that support students to realise their goals and life-long aspirations
- records student's academic goals and aspirations in a context that takes into account the student's spiritual, emotional, social and physical health and wellbeing
- is developed in partnership with parents/carers, with support from Aboriginal staff and other specialist school staff and agencies if relevant
- articulates learning pathways required to pursue the student's identified goals

Principals consult with staff, Aboriginal parents and carers, and the local or regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) to determine the best way to support the learning needs of Aboriginal students. Strategies and initiatives are then implemented and monitored on an ongoing basis in partnership with Aboriginal parents/carers and the local AECG.

All schools have a school plan in which they develop in consultation with their local school community and broader community on how they propose to utilise funds to support students. The accountability processes for how the funds are used and their impact needs to be reflected in the annual school report as guided by the *School Excellence Framework*.

You can find further information about the implementation of the Personalised Learning and Individual Sponsorship for Aboriginal students, on the Department's Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement's intranet site on <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/aet/index.htm>

### **EQUITY LOADING FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS**

The equity loading for Aboriginal students is a funding allocation to meet the learning needs of Aboriginal students.

Both national census data and school-based enrolment data are used to determine each school's funding. The formula funds students with the highest need at a higher

rate per student. The rate per student is based on the number and percentage of Aboriginal students in the school.

Schools receive the equity loading for Aboriginal background as flexible funding and/or staffing allocation. The staffing allocation is for permanent Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO) and Aboriginal School Learning and Support Officer (ASLSO) positions on the school's staff entitlement report. Schools that have not previously held a staffing entitlement for AEO or ASLSO positions only receive flexible funding.

The way schools use their funding will vary based on local needs. Some schools may choose to combine their equity funding with other funding sources to better support the needs of Aboriginal students.

### **PERSONALISED LEARNING SUPPORT FOR YEARS 4, 6, 8 AND 10**

Personalised Learning Support is targeted for Aboriginal students in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10 who have been identified as being at or below the national minimum standard in all NAPLAN domains in the previous year's NAPLAN tests.

Personalised Learning Support funding is used to employ tutors focusing on the improvement of literacy and numeracy outcomes for Aboriginal students.

Schools use Personalised Learning Support to provide:

- Individual or small group learning assistance in the classroom
- Independent learning hubs for Aboriginal students. The learning hubs, located within a suitable area of school, provide access to physical and digital learning resources which may otherwise not be available to Aboriginal students in their home setting. Students are supervised by a teacher/tutor.

### **INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS FOR YEARS 11 AND 12**

Individual Sponsorships assist senior secondary Aboriginal students to complete Years 11 and 12.

Educational research strongly indicates that the completion of secondary school has a significant positive impact on students' lives after school.

Research also indicates that some of the best strategies that we can use to engage senior students in their final years of schooling are tutoring, mentoring and coaching. Individual Sponsorship funding enables schools to implement these types of school-based strategies for their senior Aboriginal students.

#### **Who receives Individual Sponsorship funding?**

Every secondary/central school in NSW with enrolled senior Aboriginal students will receive Individual Sponsorship funding in 2016.

## **How is my school's Individual Sponsorship funding determined?**

In 2016, the per-student funding is determined by actual enrolments and averaged retention of Aboriginal students. The methodology to determine each school's funding allocation uses a mix of state and school-based data.

For a detailed explanation of the methodology, please visit the Department's Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement's intranet site. The website is located on <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/aet/index.htm>

## **How can my school use Individual Sponsorship funding?**

The most effective way of ensuring that Individual Sponsorship is maximised is linking the initiative to each student's Personalised Learning Pathway and planning with them how the Individual Sponsorship can enhance their individual learning needs and/or future aspirations.

To galvanise this, schools can use the following strategies:

- Employing suitably qualified tutors with subject specific knowledge and expertise as tutors to:
  - support students in selected subjects or across a range of subjects at regular scheduled times within the school timetable.
  - providing individual or group tutoring which could be conducted before, during or after school, depending on the school context and emerging student need. This may include study skills tutoring, assistance with assignments and/or study groups in the lead-up to the assessment times during the year.

Arranging mentoring or coaching to support student participation and ongoing engagement in learning and broader school activities can also be considered. This may include activities in which Aboriginal students engage in community-based leadership activities that promote and build on their cultural identity.

Strategies to support Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal students should closely align with students' own educational aspirations and be implemented in areas where students themselves have identified the need for assistance.

You can find further information regarding the policies and procedures for the employment of tutors for Individual Sponsorships on the Department's Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement's intranet site on <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/aet/index.htm>

## **Where do I get further information on Individual Sponsorships?**

Details regarding Individual Sponsorships can be located on the Department's Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement's intranet site at <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/aet/index.htm>

Your Educational Services Team's Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement Advisor can support your school in developing Individual Sponsorship strategies and initiatives.

## **Ideas and suggestions for using Individual sponsorships:**

Members of the NSW Secondary Principal's Council have shared their ideas and strategies on implementing Individual Sponsorships. More information can be found at <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/aet/index.htm>