



Resilient Families; Strong Communities

Kimberley Schools Project

What is this project?

Aboriginal students comprise more than 60 per cent of the Kimberley region's school population. Many of them face significant challenges to complete their education.

They are about twice as likely as the average Australian school student to enter school with at least one developmental vulnerability, and less than half as likely to meet key benchmarks and successfully complete Year 12.

This \$25 million, three-year project will customise, intensify and better support existing strategies to accelerate Aboriginal student progress in Kimberley schools and communities that opt in to the project.

What does the project involve?

The project elements are:

- **Targeted teaching** - evidence-based teaching strategies, quality materials, and frequent measurement of achievement.
- **Better early years learning and care** - community initiatives that build on and improve existing services, and engage families as first teachers.
- **Regular attendance** - community partnerships to deliver strategies that respond to drivers of non-attendance in a particular community.
- **Increased student and community engagement** - development with the community of extended learning programs and related initiatives.

Support includes coaching and advice for school leaders and teachers, as well as learning and assessment resources that are both evidence-based and tailored to the needs of Kimberley children.

How will success be measured?

The project will aim to improve:

- participation in early years learning and care
- student attendance and engagement
- achievement in school-based assessments (both on entry and subsequently)
- community engagement in early years learning and the school
- collaboration between each community and its school.

The success of the project will be measured against these goals. It is also anticipated that the project will support the emergence or further development of effective school and community leaders.

How is this different from ‘business as usual’ in education?

Innovative features of the project include:

- a strong emphasis on community co-design for early years, attendance and community engagement initiatives
- a support model that stretches across the public, Catholic and independent schooling systems in a region
- adoption of an opt-in model seeking those who are ready for change.

How will the project be funded?

The \$25 million comes from the Regional Reform Fund Special Purpose Account, which was set up through the State Government’s Royalties for Regions program.

How many schools will be involved?

The project can support up to 22 schools (there are 44 schools in the Kimberley).

What is the project lifespan?

The project has funding for three school years, from 2017 to 2019.

Who is managing the Kimberley Schools Project?

The project is being managed by the [Kimberley Development Commission](#).

The project partners are:

- Department of Education
- Catholic Education WA
- Association of Independent Schools WA
- Kimberley Development Commission
- Department of Regional Development
- Regional Services Reform Unit

For more information

Kimberley Development Commission

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