Advancing Partnerships
– Parent and community engagement in action

Barkly Highway State School

Key theme: Be inclusive! Get the whole school involved.

Achievements

→ Increased student attendance – up from 91% in 2013 to 94.3% in 2017
→ Increased Indigenous attendance – up from 86.6% in 2013 to 92.1% in 2017
→ Reduced Student Disciplinary Absences between 2013 and 2017
→ Increased parent satisfaction – up from 92.2% in 2015 to 93.2% in 2017
→ Improved student achievement across key learning areas from 2013 to 2017.

Strategies

→ Multiple communication channels including: Facebook to promote good news stories (scheduled three times per week); a school newsletter; an electronic noticeboard; SMS messaging; positive phone calls from teachers to parents; open classrooms from 8:15am each morning to allow parents to speak with teachers; and assemblies on a weekly basis and for special occasions.

→ The school leadership team is visible to parents and students. The principal and deputy principal are out and about at school drop-off and pick-up times, as well as at eating and play times.

→ The principal and leadership team use positive talk about the school to build pride and strengthen school culture. “Remember, our school is the best school in town.”

→ Parent information evenings address a range of topics.

→ A yarning circle provides an inclusive space for students, staff and families to build relationships.

→ Assistance is provided to families experiencing hardship through a breakfast program and assistance with lunches, uniforms and shoes if needed – to encourage attendance, engagement and inclusion.

→ Parents are involved as volunteers for various projects, supported by formal volunteer training and induction.

→ Opportunities for parents to provide input to the school’s direction and decision-making processes through the P&C, School Opinion Surveys, and the Annual Improvement Plan.

→ The Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students helps to frame interactions with parents to resolve behaviour management issues that students may be experiencing.

→ The school recognises the important link between parent engagement and school attendance, adopting an individualised approach to school attendance which is underpinned by processes such as creating a positive school environment, data monitoring, and communication of positive attendance messages to parents and students.

Data contained in this case study is current as at Semester 1, 2018.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS
436

INDIGENOUS ENROLMENT
22.2%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY ENROLMENT
2.3%

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946