

# Advancing Partnerships

– Parent and community engagement in action

## Barkly Highway State School

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



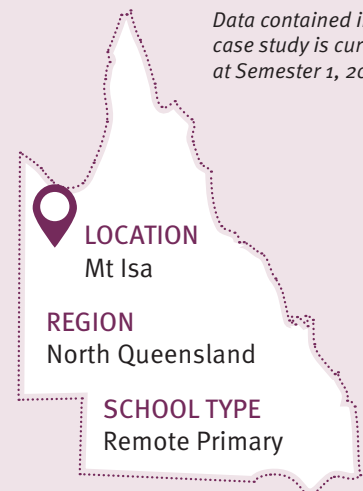
### Achievements

- 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%

### INDEX OF COMMUNITY SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE (ICSEA)

946



Advancing Partnerships  
– Parent and Community Engagement Framework



Queensland  
Government