

PARTNERSHIP BROKERS

SCHOOL+BUSINESS+COMMUNITY

PARTNERS ENGAGING GRAY SCHOOL

Purpose:

To encourage, support and empower the Gray School Community to access quality school and community services.

Partnership Members:

- Gray Primary School
- Gray Primary School Family Centre
- The Smith Family
- Early Childhood Australia
- Good Beginnings Australia
- Somerville Community Services
- COPAL and Healthy Palmerston (City of Palmerston)
- FAST NT
- YMCA of The Top End

Context and Goals

Gray Primary School's population includes 49% Indigenous students, 24% ESL students, and 27% assessed as special needs students. An on-site Family Centre supported by The Smith Family has offered programs and services such as parenting classes, internet access, and group programs; partners provided a playgroup for young mums; and counselling services could be accessed nearby. However, these programs commenced at different points in time, so were not planned together, and gaps existed in the range of support available. The partnership was created to improve coordination of these services, with a core focus on engaging and assisting families to access and benefit from available support services.

The Partnership's Approach

Partners work together to develop a better coordinated approach.

Partners have signed a Co-operation Agreement, which outlines both whole-of-partnership and individual responsibilities and contributions. Partners identified their common goals as being:

- to promote stronger family and community involvement in the school community

- to take advice from and work with the school council
- to coordinate services and programs so that there is 'no wrong door' for families and students
- to build a strong and effective partnership

Benefits

- Improved communication and coordination of activities between service providers and improved awareness and promotion of each other's services and programs.
- Better understanding among partners of each other's roles leading to improved referral systems for students and families.
- Improved access for the school and other partners to support in addressing specific issues
- Improved relationships with families who are dealing with multiple services

Next Steps

Partners will develop an action plan for the remainder of 2012 to support the achievement of the identified goals.



Partners gather to cut the cake, officially launching the PEGS partnership.

Support from the Partnership Broker

Through facilitation and individual consultation, the partnership broker has assisted partners to gain a deeper understanding of each other's roles and capacity, and to understand these in the context of the needs of the Gray Primary School community.

TOP TIP

A clear understanding of the purpose of the partnership will help to gain commitment from partners.