

As the partnership develops, it is intended that the students and Power Water Corporation will work on a special project together that will enhance the curriculum and add to the school and community culture.

POWER and WATER CORPORATION and THE SMITH FAMILY

Purpose:

To provide a solid foundation for learning success and to raise awareness about career pathways for students, particularly young Indigenous students

Partnership Members:

- Power Water Corporation
- The Smith Family

Context and Goals

The Power and Water Corporation is the only supplier of these services throughout the NT and supplies to 80,000 customers. Power and Water is one of the largest businesses in the NT, employing over 1,000 people. It has a keen interest in increasing the levels of indigenous participation in its workforce which covers most parts of the NT. Power and Water and The Smith Family believe that by supporting young people in their education and providing learning opportunities and highlighting career pathways that this goal could be achieved.

The Partnership's Approach

The approach for this partnership is to work in one school initially- Rosebery Middle School in Palmerston. Students from Years 7 – 9 are involved. There are two areas of work – Involvement in The Itchy Feet Academic Club (an extra-curricular activity involving Indigenous students) and supporting the Year 8 & 9 science classes as part of the curriculum.

Initially it is proposed that the following occur at Rosebery Middle School with possible expansion into other middle schools as the program develops:

- Provide inspirational speakers to the Itchy Feet Academic Club
- Provide a speed mentoring opportunity for students from Itchy Feet to visit Power Water Corporation main office to gain understandings about various roles and to look at a range of career pathways
- Provide opportunities for years 8 and 9 students to make on-site visits to the various worksites under the umbrella of the Power Water Corporation

“ This partnership provides Northern Territory students with an understanding of the varied career opportunities available within Power and Water ”

Peter Mayo, HR Consultant, Indigenous Employment

Benefits

- Students who attend the Itchy Feet Academic Club are inspired by mentors and role models
- Students have the opportunity to explore a wide range of potential career paths
- Curriculum (science in particular) is enhanced by being relevant and meaningful
- Improved attendance, participation and retention

Next Steps

This opportunity will be offered to other middle schools in the Darwin region. It is anticipated that the partnership will build aspirations and develop meaningful employment pathways for indigenous students.

Support from the Partnership Broker

The Partnership Broker has provided the linkage and facilitation expertise to assist the Power and Water Corporation, to identify opportunities for meaningful exchange between the school, its staff and students and the Power and Water Corporation. Possible enhancements to curriculum delivery have been identified by looking at the needs of the school/students and the exciting opportunities for community engagement careers, particularly for indigenous students through this partnership.

TOP TIP

An MOU between partners can help to clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen the agreement between parties.