ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Communication

- Utilise Aboriginal staff to assist with establishing connections and communication pathways with key members of the community.
- Create opportunities for personal communication such as visits, phone calls and emails.
- Be prepared to speak with other members of the family such as Aunties, Uncles or Grandparents.
- Arrange informal meetings such as morning tea or lunch to minimise the apprehension felt by some family members coming to attend a formal meeting.
- Keep language and explanations clear and concise and avoid acronyms and jargon.
- Aboriginal people use and rely upon body language to convey information. This can determine the extent of future relationships with the community.

Inclusivity

- Be prepared and open to learn from each other (two-way learning).
- Implement and support the use of a wide range of teaching and learning strategies.
- Encourage community members to assist with or offer suggestions for the administering and improvement of inclusive programs.

Language

- Aboriginal English is a recognised and accepted language and needs to be appreciated and valued in its own right.
- Teachers need to model Standard Australian English (SAE) when engaging with Aboriginal people.

Genuine Partnership

- Maintain regular contact with the community.
- Engage in capacity building exercises.
- Involve the community in school events.
- Work together to develop a formal School Community Partnership Agreement.