

Big Buddy

Empowering indigenous youth to achieve their full potential and thrive through MENTORSHIP, EDUCATION, SOCIAL INTERACTION and PROMOTING LIFE SKILLS

Benefits

- Increases self-esteem
- Improves relationships
- Helps keep indigenous youth:
 - in school
 - away from drugs and alcohol
- Helps improve employment options
- Provides valuable, practical life skills
 - Sense of purpose
 - Sense of pride
 - Enhanced work ethic

Mentorship

- Pairing youth with role models
- Utilise high profile people



Education

- Homework support
- Accredited training
 - Support with traineeship / scholarship applications



Social Interaction

- After school activities
- Sporting / Cultural events
 - Discos
- And Other Events



Promoting Life Skills

- Vehicle restoration
- Exposure to small business
- Planning & managing events
- Cooking & Budgeting skills



Big Buddy – What We Know

- In 2008, substance use was more prevalent among Indigenous males, of whom **51% had tried drugs**¹
- In 2008, almost one-quarter of Indigenous peoples aged 15 years and over had used substances in the last 12 months. Higher rates of drug use are related to poorer health status and higher levels of psychological distress.¹
- Around **23%** of Indigenous students aged 12-15 years had used an illicit substance in their lifetime, compared with 11% of all 12-15 year old students.
- According to the Office of the Status of Women there is a correlation between domestic violence, and drug and alcohol use in Indigenous communities, with **70% to 90% of assaults** being committed **under the influence of alcohol and/ or other drugs**.¹

Education, Employment & Training



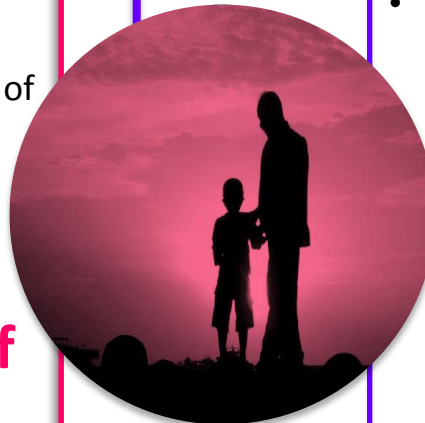
- Children require a minimum of **80%** attendance at school for education to be effective.²
- Indigenous students are **approximately 3 years behind** by the age of 15 years.²

More than 60% of 17-24 year old Indigenous Australians leave school without connecting to further study or work compared to 25% of other young Australians.²

Indigenous Australians are **less than half as likely** to be in full-time work or study.²

- **23%** of training qualifications commenced by Indigenous Australians are completed.²
- **Education and employment** have the **capacity to end the disparity** which exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.²
- When Indigenous people have an education, an apprenticeship or above, they have **employment parity**.²

Drug & Other Substance Abuse



¹ Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 Report*

² Commonwealth of Australia, *Creating Parity – The Forrest Review*