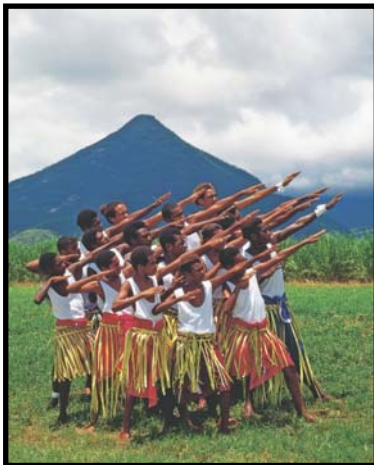


## Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships Case Study

### *Djarragun College*



#### **Background**

Djarragun College is an indigenous school near Cairns which aims to deliver excellent education programmes to Indigenous Australian students. It operates from Prep to Year 13 and caters for day students and boarders. Since 2001 the school has grown from 60 to 550 students and indicators of success for the school such as literacy tests, attendance, and retention of students have improved markedly.

The strong and broad base of pastoral care that the school provides is a significant factor in its success. Djarragun College employs guidance counsellors and health workers and runs a series of co-curricular programs that build the children's resilience, confidence and other life skills.

Funding is one of many significant challenges for the College. Like any non-government school it receives funding from the Federal Government, but unlike most other independent schools, it is unable to supplement this funding with significant tuition fees from the families of students attending.

#### **Objectives**

The ethos of the school is that improvement in the lives of Indigenous people can only be achieved through improvements in educational attainment; therefore empowering people to engage in the real workforce and economy.

In order to achieve this goal, as well as focusing on strong numeracy and literacy training, Djarragun offers a strong vocational educational component in its secondary schooling. That means that students can complete Certificates in vocations including Carpentry, Mechanical Engineering, Horticulture, Information Technology, Hairdressing and Hospitality amongst others.

#### **IEP involvement to date**

IEP began supporting Djarragun College in late 2007. Since that time IEP has sourced secondees from corporate partners and funding from philanthropics to support development at the school. This support has seen the following outcomes:

- » A marketing prospectus for the College for potential parents, supporters and donors – through the support of KPMG, Kwik-Kopy and Qantas;
- » Assessment / recommendation of improvements to the systems and processes for management of information at the College through secondments;
- » Supporting establishment of the KPMG RAS (Risk Advisory



Services) Challenge which has raised in \$130k for building an ablutions block that will enable the Djarragun Farm to be used as a 'boot camp' for at risk children;

- » Progressing DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status for the College's vocational and pastoral care activities through law firm Freehills;
- » Establishing the College as a funding recipient for the VirginBlue RedJet Foundation raised \$130k for a medical centre;
- » Through BCG (Boston Consulting Group) resources at the Cape York Institute, designing a Foster Care program that will see Djarragun act as foster carer for an additional 50 at risk children from remote Cape York communities;
- » Supported the engagement of Cisco who wish to utilise their capabilities to help build a 'school of the future';
- » Establishing a relationship with the Netzer Youth Movement and Future Platform, organisational psychologists that will help run leadership programs;
- » Organised the donation of over 1000 Books for the new Djarragun College library.

Recognising the growing needs of the College and the success of the support provided to date, IEP will continue to grow the support it channels from Corporate and Philanthropic Australia.

## Recognition of value

At a College where the majority of staff are, appropriately, focussed on the growth and well-being of the students, the impact of the support provided through IEP is widely appreciated. The Principal Jean Illingworth commented **"While it is always encouraging to receive accolades for what we are doing, there is nothing to beat the hands on involvement that you have given to so many of our projects"**.

