

Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships Case Study

Munarra Institute



Background

School education provides the foundation for Indigenous communities to engage in real market economy. The inclusion of sporting activities and life-skills develops confidence and ultimately, the self-esteem to succeed across the broad spectrum of life.

Operating since 1998, the Rumbalara Football Netball Club Inc. (Rumba) in Shepparton, Victoria, is the most successful sporting club in Australia, attracting more than 300 local people weekly to game days.

In response to its young people disengaging from school, leading to complex financial, health and justice problems, Rumba envisioned a dynamic range of activities promoting education, personal development, leadership, social connection and emotional well being.

Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships (IEP), which has partnered with Rumba since 2006, committed to supporting this vision through establishing the Munarra Institute of Sport.

Central to the program is mobilising the passion junior club members express for their sport as motivation to remain in school, while developing a sense of responsibility for their own progression and enjoyment during the process.

Rumba also partners with the University of Melbourne to deliver the Academy of Sport Health and Education (ASHE), to assist individuals (average age 16 - 25) who have left the formal schooling system complete Certificate level courses.

Objectives

IEP assisted Rumba to establish the Munarra Institute of Sport, recognising adequate education as a critical pre-requisite to navigate through mainstream society.

Specifically, the program offers a range of specialised training experiences for students in years 5 to 12 on the basis that participants remain at school and meet satisfactory performance levels.

Further aims include:

- Offering long-term support for young boys and girls through mentoring, sports training, camps, personal and cultural development, career counselling, jobs and apprenticeships
- Affirming culture and identity, fostering respect, loyalty and integrity through adopting Club values and codes of conduct, and developing commitment to long-term goals
- Encouraging parental engagement to provide support for their children
- Becoming the social and sporting focus for the Indigenous Goulburn Valley population
- Enhancing mainstream understanding of the local community and culture

IEP involvement

IEP, in collaboration with the Indigenous community, launched the Munarra institute by recognising the program's value, determining the necessary resources, and engaging Corporate and Philanthropic Australia for funding support.

Ongoing, IEP provides implementation and development assistance including, collaboration with the Club's Board and Management to plan program growth, sourcing and administering additional funding, promoting services, monitoring implementation and success measures, facilitating change management and recruiting on-site staff.

Achievements to date

The Munarra Institute of Sport is successfully applying the sporting context to improve young people and their family's engagement in education, careers and self development.

The following milestones have been achieved:

- Program submission developed and funding secured
- New Program Coordinator position created and recruited
- Introductory elements of program commenced.

Recognition of value

Rumba programs assisting participants who have left the education system early are now complemented by a program designed to inspire youth to remain in school, striving to achieve their highest potential.

The Munarra Institute of Sport has received funding from state government, sporting bodies and philanthropic organisations.

The achievement of a stable funding base enables KRIC to engage in comprehensive planning sessions leading to long-term sustainability of Indigenous culture, governance and community decision making.