

PARTNERSHIP BROKERS

SCHOOL + BUSINESS + COMMUNITY



everyone's family

KARAMA PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Purpose:

Partnership Members:

- Karama Primary School
- Karama Primary School Council
- Tata Family Centre
- The Smith Family

Context and Goals

The Smith Family (TSF) has been working in partnership with Karama Primary School since August 2006. The school has a diverse student population, with indigenous enrolment at 47% and a Language other than English in 44% of households. The demographics of the area have resulted in a decline in this school's population.

The aim of this partnership is to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of students and to increase the participation of local families in the school.

The Partnership's Approach

Through the partnership a number of key areas have been identified as points for ongoing action and future development. Initially these cover the following:

- Music & sport support programs to boost skills and school connection
- Family support to build capacity & engagement
- Learning for Life Scholarships

The partnership will be expanded to bring in new partners as and when opportunities are identified.

Karama School employed a permanent Music Teacher to enable all students to participate in the Music Support program. The Smith Family continues to support music through annual workshops with John Morrison and Jacki Cooper.

The Smith Family continues to provide support for young Indigenous Year 12 graduates to complete twelve month traineeships in Sport and Recreation (Certificate III) through Charles Darwin University. Their full time placement at Karama Primary School provides the teachers with support for PE classes, organised activities

conducted by the trainee during lunch breaks and positive Indigenous role models for students.

TSF funds and supports a full time Coordinator for the Tata Family Centre. The recent recruitment of a new full time Coordinator will reinvigorate the program by focussing on attracting Indigenous families to the centre and providing identified programs of support for them.

The introduction of *Learning for Life* Scholarships to Karama has given the most disadvantaged families the opportunity for their children to fully participate in school life.

Benefits

- Students in need have the opportunity to fully participate in education
- Students are able to access a school based music program (generally not available in most government schools in Darwin) and develop skills in music
- Students have organised lunchtime sports activities
- Indigenous students engage with positive role models
- Teachers are supported in their curriculum delivery

Next Steps

This partnership will continue to grow and develop, bringing in other partners to support identified areas of need within the school community and by expanding the role of the Tata Family Centre.

Support from the Partnership Broker

The Partnership Broker has provided the linkage and facilitation expertise to assist Karama Primary School to identify opportunities for meaningful exchange between the school, its staff and students, its families and The Smith Family.

By continuing to work with Karama School to broker in other support services, there is opportunity for this partnership to meet more of the identified needs of the students and families and to engage in programs that are sustainable.

TOP TIP

Clearly identify service providers that meet the needs of the school community AND are able to enter into partnerships that are sustainable