

PARTNERSHIP BROKERS

SCHOOL + BUSINESS + COMMUNITY



everyone's family

SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR GIRLS EDUCATION (SAGE)

Purpose:

To encourage girls to remain engaged in education, by supporting them in developing career aspirations.

Partnership Members:

- Darwin business community – various organisations and individuals
- Department of Education

Context and Goals

International evidence shows that education of girls impacts on early pregnancy, increases women's labour force participation and earnings, and helps to reduce generational disadvantage.

A key element for girls to remain in school is to have aspirations and goals. This partnership is in its infancy and brings together individuals and organisations from business, community groups and government who are interested in supporting the development of career aspirations in girls, with a focus on Indigenous girls.

The Partnership's Approach

Partners agreed to initially hold an event for Year 9 girls, with the aim of exposing them to different career paths.

The "Girls Step Up" event was held in September, with around 40 students from two middle schools speaking with 11 inspirational Darwin women from various careers. Both schools have a high level of disadvantage, and girls attending included a number who are at risk of disengaging. The forum followed a 'speed mentoring' format, with the women sharing their stories with small groups and answering questions from the girls.

"Such a wonderful opportunity to meet a range of adult women who were able to provide invaluable experience in 11 different career fields for girls, some of whom struggle to engage in education. This was a great initiative and I do hope that some Year 9s will have the same opportunity in 2013."

Jan Moore, Principal, Sanderson Middle School

Benefits

- Provision of information, advice and support to girls about career paths
- Teachers noted that several girls who have been disengaged from school were speaking animatedly to mentors and asking a lot of questions
- Opportunity for local businesses and organisations to 'give back' to the community by engaging with students and schools
- Inclusion of broad perspectives in planning partnership activities, including from schools, business, community, and government

Next Steps

Partners will look at how to build on the success of the "Girls Step Up" event. This will include options to support girls who attended the event and were interested in a particular career, for example through work shadowing and mentoring.

Similar events for a larger number of students and schools are also likely to be held in 2013.



Year 9 girls from Sanderson Middle School enjoy 'speed mentoring' with Senior Constable Jenny Roe from the NT Police.

Support from the Partnership Broker

Partnership Brokers brought together a group of interested individuals and organisations to form the partnership. Working with schools, they were able to organise a successful initial event and are now working with the partners on next steps.

TOP TIP

An initial project or event can help bring partners together to focus on more strategic goals.