

**Aboriginal Education Programs offered at Wellington High School**

As part of their education at Wellington High School, Aboriginal students are offered access to the following programs: Norta Norta, IProwd, NASCA, Sista Speak, UWS visits and IKIfit.

This booklet is designed to inform teachers, parents and other interested individuals of the aim and purpose of these programs.



**Norta Norta Program**

The Norta Norta Program provides targeted support for Aboriginal Students to accelerate progress in student achievement. The focus of the program is to provide learning assistance in the key areas of literacy and numeracy to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. The following two closing the gap targets are specifically aligned to the Norta Norta Program:

* Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-indigenous students by 2018;
* Halve the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

The Program provides funding in two separate areas. The Naplan component covers the students in years 7-10 and the Individual Sponsorship component covers the Senior Students. Every year, the Naplan results are analysed to produce a list of “target” students requiring assistance in the classroom. These students have achieved below the benchmark results in literacy and numeracy. In Senior years, an individual sponsorship application must be done for each student to obtain funding which covers in-class tutoring and also mentoring by teachers.

**IProwd**

The IProwd Training Program is a joint initiative between the Australian Government, the NSW Police Force, TAFE NSW and Charles Sturt University to assist Aboriginal people to gain entry to the NSW Police Force.

The program provides:

* Certificate III Vocational and Study Pathways
* Associate Degree in Policing Practice
* Fulltime 18 week training program
* Excursion to Goulburn Police Academy
* Skills and knowledge in- communication, information technology, writing, presentation skills, ethics, workplace responsibilities and Aboriginal Studies
* Support to meet the requirements of entry in relation to fitness, first aid and individual learning support
* Funding support for travel and accommodation
* Mentoring during and after the program
* Support with completing application for CSU and NSW Police Force.

More information about IProwd can be obtained from:

[www.iprowdtafensw.edu.au](http://www.iprowdtafensw.edu.au)



**National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy**

NASCA is dedicated to creating positive futures for young Aboriginal people through educational engagement and life skills training. NASCA is a not-for-profit organisation. The NASCA vision is the enable Aboriginal equality and cultural pride. The NASCA Mission Statement is: In collaboration with communities, we work with Aboriginal young people to empower them through health, education , sport and cultural programs.

Qualified Teachers known as Project Officers spend at least one dull day per week at Wellington High School delivering outcome driven sports, education, careers, mentoring and cultural programs. A students participation in NASCA is dependent upon a high standard of attendance and behaviour.

The Academy aims to:

* Increase school attendance and retention rates
* Strengthen student engagement with schools and improve attitudes towards schooling
* Improve general skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication
* Improve opportunities for post school pathways
* Improve the health and well-being of students. This includes improving physical activity levels, self-esteem and self-confidence
* Promote and support positive learning experiences that foster success for our students

Activities NASCA Academy participants are involved in include:

* One on One Mentoring
* First Aid Certificate, Bronze Medallion, AUSTSWIM and referee accreditation courses
* Work experience programs
* Financial literacy sessions
* Careers expos and careers development sessions
* Short film making
* Cultural camps
* Healthy eating and cooking
* NAIDOC Day activities
* Leadership development programs (High Resolves)

More information about NASCA can be obtained from www.nasca.com.au

**Sista Speak**

Sista Speak is an Aboriginal girl’s wellbeing program run in partnership with WACHS. The young women participate in a variety of activities aimed at improving their self-esteem, understanding of career options, finance and ability to make positive life choices. The program concludes with a celebration to thank the community for their participation, thank the Aboriginal Education Officers and staff for facilitating the program and recognise the progress and achievements made by the young women.

**iKiFit**

IKiFit is a student leadership program that uses iKiSticks to promote physical activity and develop leadership skills.

Benefits for schools:

Improved student engagement

Behaviour Management strategies that work

Unique fitness routines students love

Student mentoring opportunities that help build tomorrow’s leaders

All of which adds up to improved resilience, numeracy and literacy skills

Benefits for students:

Builds resilience

Increases physical fitness

Engages them in learning in classrooms

Instils positive values

Provides leadership and mentoring skills

Hands-on fun using the iKiSticks

**University of Western Sydney Rural Indigenous Student Visit**

The University of Western Sydney runs 2 workshops each year for Rural Indigenous Students to visit The university and get a taste of tertiary life. As part of the visit, activities are held at Hawkesbury, Penrith and Campbelltown campuses. Students attend a range of workshops, interactive activities. The program will aim to engage them and encourage their educational aspirations, as well as allowing them to experience the campus environment. Over the four days they will meet local elders, indigenous and non-Indigenous USW Academics and professional staff, and indigenous UWS students as well as linking with students from other participating schools. As part of the visit UWS provides accommodation , transport and most meals.

**Yarning Circles**

Yarning Circles have been used by indigenous people for thousands of years to provide a place for everyone to have their say in a safe space without judgement. Every participant speaks, one at a time, without interruption. When an issue is being discussed, all participants should form a circle facing each other. An artefact/object is then used as a signal that it is that person’s turn to speak. Every person is seated equally, everyone can see each other clearly and everyone has equal rights to speak and to listen. It is important to have respectful interactions, to be open and honest, to listen deeply, acknowledge others and offer your own thoughts and feelings in turn. The discussion starts with check in by each person – each person shows either thumbs up, thumbs down or flat palms to show how they feel about the topic being discussed. Each person then takes their turn to speak. At the end of the discussion, each person should check out by signalling thumbs up, thumbs down or flat palms according to how they feel about the topic.