



# Indigenous STEM Education Project

The Indigenous STEM Education Project provides of six nationwide programs that cater to the diversity of students as they progress through primary, secondary and tertiary education and into employment.



**22,116**

Aboriginal and/Torres Strait Islander Students\*



**2,141**

Teachers involved\*



**233**

Schools participating\*

\*Results are from a six year period

## Program potential

Three stand out programs demonstrate enormous potential for continued success and expansion. There is a unique opportunity for a new funding partner to explore this prospect and immediately reap the benefits of an investment in proven models that deliver impact.

## Project highlights

### Inquiry for Indigenous Science Students (I2S2)

Targets middle-school students and uses Indigenous science concepts and contexts to engage all students through hands-on inquiry based projects.



**143**  
schools



**1,095**  
teachers

**11,076**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

### Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities

Targets primary and middle school students in remote Indigenous communities and uses on-country projects as the context for learning science linked to Indigenous ecological knowledge.



**23** communities



**13** schools



**277** Aboriginal education workers



**344** teachers

**2,691**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

### Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence

Provides an opportunity for Year 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to explore the study and career options available to them in STEM.



**739** student applications



**14** summer schools

**499**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

# Impact\*

The Indigenous STEM Education Project has significant impact on the engagement and achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

## Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence

**79%** intend to study a STEM field at university (up from 58% before the summer school)

**71%** of ASSETS alumni progressed to University and of which 55% pursued STEM qualifications

**29%** stated ASSETS participation had a 'life-changing' impact on their study choices and career direction

## Inquiry for Indigenous Science Students (I2S2)

**89%** showed improvement or similar engagement after participating in I2S2 inquiry

**66%** achieved an A, B, C grade after participating in I2S2 inquiry

**27%** of students recorded an increase in academic achievements following participating in I2S2 inquiry

## Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities



Invaluable partnerships between schools and Indigenous Ranger programs, scientists and land management organisations



Support from Aboriginal people in schools and communities in the planning of learning programs with teachers



Strong engagement in the program by teachers and students, among schools and their communities

## What they say

*"The value here of engaging in Two-way Science learning on country is to reconnect our kids. If you go back to a traditional system of learning, it's our mothers, it's our auntys, it's our uncles, our fathers who teach the children."*

**Kado Muir, Cultural Protocol Officer, Ngaila Heritigate Research Council  
Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities**

*"I've actually found the engagement has gone through the roof."*

**Suzanne Fowler, Teacher, Leanora District High School  
Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities**

*"We understand here at Wiluna that two-way science is not only important for the students own sense of identity, not only important for their sense of academic development, but also for the future."*

**Adriano Truscott, Wiluna School, Principal  
Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities**

*"He grew up so much. He came home with increased self-confidence and determination to do well to achieve admission to university."*

**Indigenous parent**

**Indigenous Leaders**

**Principals and Teachers**

**IMPACT**

**Students and Parents**

*"I have higher social confidence and a better knowledge in STEM careers. ASSETS has presented with me a better perspective of what I want to do in the future."*

**ASSETS Student**

*"CSIRO programs are an inspiring way to teach science through integration Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges."*

**Jess Cooper, Teacher, Birrigai Outdoor Education Centre Canberra  
I2S2**

\* From the most recent evaluation report