

'Transition Support'

A pathway from school to work

Background:

The transition from school to work is a critical step for all young people. The 2017 Closing the Gap report states - '*Young people who do not successfully make the transition from education to work are at risk of long-term disadvantage*'. This is recognised by Anangu, who are worried for the future of their young people and have spoken up strongly of the need for improved transition supports from school into work or further study.

In central Australia's tri-state Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Region, young people face significant disadvantage across many domains. 2016 census data reveals:

18% of 20 – 24 year olds have completed Year 12 or equivalent.



13% of 17 – 24 year olds are participating in work or study.



"My vision is to see kids from here get qualifications and jobs. But to do this in the future we need to look at what is going on today".

Makinti Minutjukur

Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee

The NPY Region comprises 25 remote Aboriginal communities with a total population of around 4500 – of which half are under 25 years.

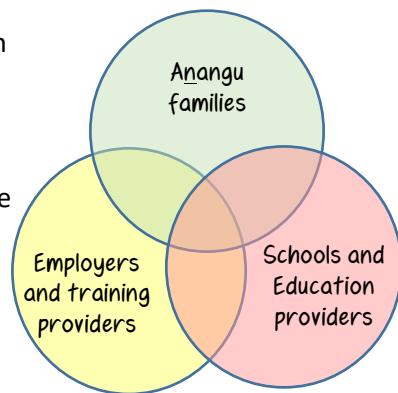
- There are currently no formal programs, practical support or structured pathways for young people leaving school in NPY communities
- There is a lack of access and equity in vocational training across the region – with no certificate level training available in Ngaanyatjarra communities and limited opportunities from visiting providers in the (southern) Northern Territory.
- Young people have expressed a lack of knowledge and work readiness (skills, motivation, confidence) upon leaving school and have few entry-level employment options.
- Family and community engagement in young people's education is limited; there are few opportunities for role models and mentors to motivate and support young people's aspirations into employment.

Student enrolment numbers: NPY Region

(WA) Ngaanyatjarra Land School: (2018)	Years 7 – 9	92
Total: 139	Years 10 – 12	47
(SA) APY Lands Schools & Wiltja: (2018)	Years 7 – 9 @ Wiltja	131 20
Total: 274	Years 10-12 @Wiltja	105 18
(NT) Nyangatjatjara College: (2016)	Years 7 – 12	80
	Total	493

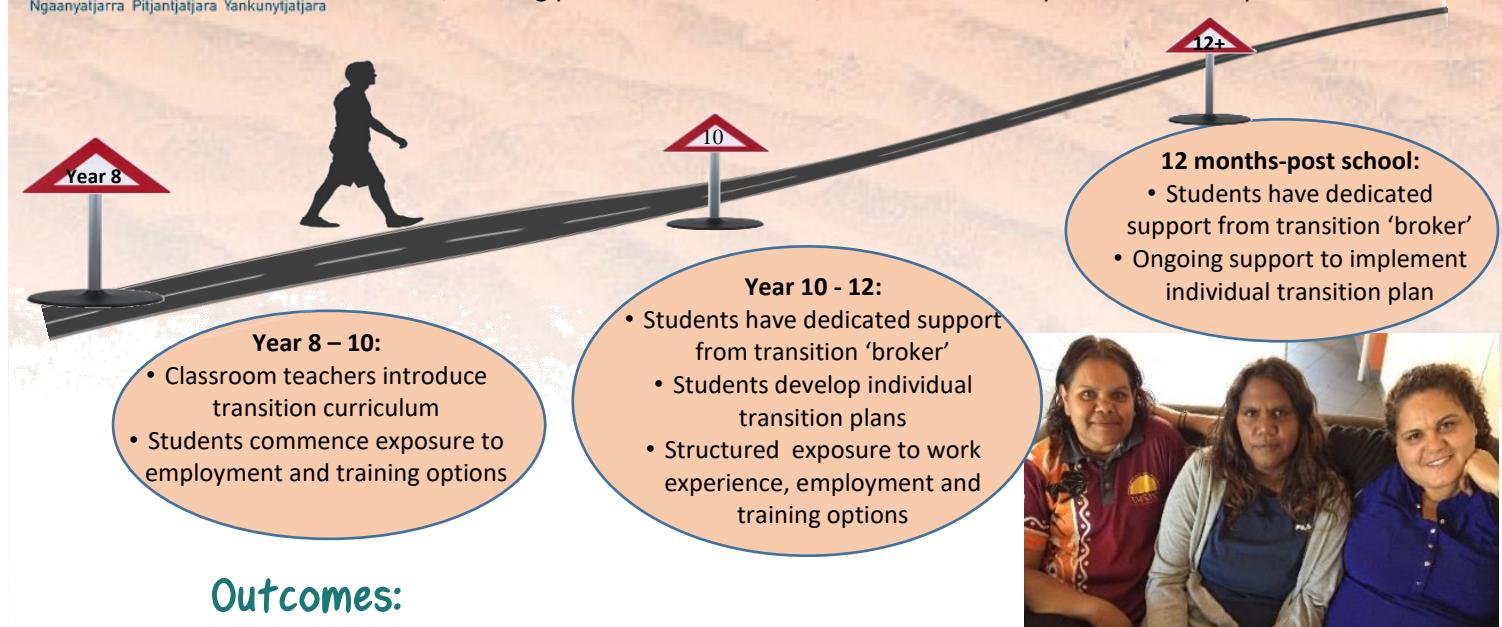
Purpose:

This initiative seeks to make systemic changes to the way young people in the NPY Region are prepared for and supported in their transition from school. This will be achieved through the collective commitment of families, education providers and local employers to work together in support of young people. This is a place-based response that acknowledges that the pathway from school-to-work is rarely direct, and aims to build the capacity of young people in small steps over time. Central to the initiative is the role of 'brokers' who provide consistent, one-on-one bridging support and transition planning for young people for a minimum of 12 months post-school. Brokers also facilitate collaboration between schools, families and employers, to ensure young people develop the confidence and capacity to successfully transition into work or further study.



A pathway from school to work:

With young people at the centre, this initiative is co-designed by key stakeholders in the NPY region – including young people, families and Anangu leaders, schools, employers, youth services, training providers and Federal, State and Territory Government representatives.



Outcomes:

This initiative will deliver long-term outcomes for young people, families and communities in the NPY Region. These include:

- More **young people** prepared for and engaged in work or study.
- Families and communities** supporting education as a meaningful and relevant pathway to improved life outcomes.
- All **schools** in the region delivering curriculum and activities that build the skills and confidence of young people to pursue options post-school.
- Employers** with visible pathways for young people to join their organisations.
- Partnerships** between schools and employers that connect education to local opportunities post-school.
- Increased and consistent access to **training and VET options** throughout the region.
- An improved 'culture of success' through increased aspirations for the outcomes of young people in the region (**attitudinal change**)

The long-term impact of this initiative is a reduced reliance on welfare, increased income security and personal wellbeing, with flow on benefits to the broader family and community.

PRINCIPLES OF THE NPY TRANSITION SUPPORT MODEL

- 'Brokers' providing consistent individual support for young people for up to 12 months post-school across the NPY Region
- Transition curriculum and school-based training in schools
- Work experience and exposure for all secondary students
- Employer commitments to Anangu recruitment
- Increased access and opportunities for education and training
- Coordination and commitment to a long term, holistic, multiagency approach from all stakeholders
- Raised family and community involvement; increased aspirations for the outcomes of young people in the region.



Pathways and transition support is identified as a priority in the following policies and strategy documents throughout the region:

South Australia

- Dept of Education Aboriginal Education Strategy (2019 – 29)
- SACE Board Aboriginal Education Strategy
- PYEC strategic plan (2017 – 2020)

Western Australia

- WA Dept of Education Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework
- Ng Lands School Strategic Plan (2017 – 2029)

Northern Territory

- NT Education Strategic Framework (2018 – 2022)
- The NT Indigenous Education Strategy (2015 – 2024)
- Nyangatjatjara College Strategic Plan