The Partnership Agreement between the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. (NSW AECG) is based on the principles of ***respect, commitment, collaboration*** and ***accountability*** in order to improve education and training outcomes for Aboriginal learners.

The first Partnership Agreement was signed in 1999 to ensure that Aboriginal people had a voice in setting the directions and goals for education and training in NSW.

This renewed Partnership Agreement builds on the joint work undertaken by the Department (which comprises Regions, schools, TAFE NSW Institutes, Adult and Community Education Colleges, and state offices) and the NSW AECG (at a local regional and state level) to ensure Aboriginal parents and communities are actively engaged in public education and training in NSW.

The Partnership Agreement is based on a genuine and practical approach to working together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal learners by ensuring that they have access to an education and training system that values their cultural heritage and identity and supports their learning and career development through quality teaching practices, relevant policies and strategies and inclusive curriculum and training programs.

**VISION STATEMENT**

The vision statement of the Partnership Agreement has three key messages:

***Together We Are*** committed to providing Aboriginal people with opportunities to be actively involved through collaborative processes and we will listen and respect to the academic and vocational needs of Aboriginal students and rigour, accountability and cultural respect....

***Together We Can*** ensure that we value and respect the viewpoints and contribution of Aboriginal families and communities as we strive for equity and excellence by working together to improve education and training outcomes for Aboriginal students....

***Together We Will*** succeed in providing learning environments that contribute to Aboriginal students becoming more confident, more creative and more able to excel so that they lead satisfying, productive and responsible lives that enable their contribution to the prosperity and well-being of their families and communities....

**FOCUS AREAS**

In the spirit of partnership, the Forster Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and the Great Lakes Learning Community (GLLC) within their own cultural contexts and practices, jointly commit to respecting, valuing and supporting each other to assist Aboriginal students achieve successful education and training outcomes through for key focus areas.

These focus areas are:

1. **Leadership, planning and accountability** involve developing leaders who will work with Aboriginal people to inspire and motivate them to achieve their full potential. Ensuring that the GLLC and the Forster AECG are collaboratively planning at all levels to develop inclusive policies, strategies and initiatives.

Having clear legitimate reporting and monitoring processes in place to ensure everyone is accountable for their contribution to Aboriginal education and training outcomes.

1. **Ongoing learning and professional development** focus on supporting the notion that, in the context of ongoing learning and professional development, people will gain a greater understanding and be better informed of the role and function of both organisations. This will underpin the successful implementation of the Partnership Agreement.
2. **Relationships and pathways** focus on building and maintaining respectful and effective working relationships that value the input of all and provides opportunities for people to engage and contribute towards achieving the common goal of striving for successful outcomes for Aboriginal students.
3. **Teaching and training** is about quality teaching and education and training experiences are meaningful and relevant. It is about engaging in learning environments where teachers and students have high expectations of each other with the two-pronged outcome of achieving academically and having experiences that encourages the desire for ongoing learning.

Forster AECG Great Lakes Learning Community

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