



KEEP

Kimberley Education Excellence Program



The Kimberley Education Excellence Program (KEEP) aims to transform lives and communities through the power of education. The program gives young Aboriginal people from the Kimberley access to a high-quality education, a supportive environment and an extensive range of extracurricular opportunities.

History of the Program

The KEEP program originated in the East Kimberley in 2011 through a Wunan initiative to address the challenges facing local Aboriginal people. Census data confirms that the Indigenous people in the East Kimberley are among the most disadvantaged in Australia.

The region has very high levels of long-term welfare dependency relative to the wider Australia community, which results in significant social dysfunction and very poor social and educational outcomes for Indigenous children and young people.

The Challenge

- Only **17 per cent of East Kimberley Aboriginal students complete Year 12**, compared to 54 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population in the region. The **average Aboriginal student attendance rate is 66%** across the Kimberley and of the one quarter of students assessed as being at 'severe attendance risk' (attending less than 60% of the time), 96% are Aboriginal
- The by-products of lack of education are **welfare dependency, poor health and living conditions, homelessness and domestic violence, mental illness and suicide**

Transforming Lives Through Education

The Kimberley Education Excellence Program (KEEP) is a unique opportunity for young people from the East Kimberley to access an education option that focuses on a high level of academic achievement within a supported and familiar environment.

KEEP's unique approach is different from other boarding and educational options for Aboriginal students as it is built on the knowledge that Aboriginal students flourish while they are away at school if they feel connected to home and culture.

To achieve this, we offer a home-like setting for the students who live together in a house under the supervision and care of Aboriginal House Parents from the Kimberley. The House Parents, together with dedicated school staff and after-school tutors, provide the extra emotional, pastoral and educational support the students need to succeed.



Strength in home away from home



Paige Walley, 17, Asmara Drummond, 16, Shaleeka Ozies, 17, and Ashy Carter, 16, with house parents Kaz and Lew Penny

A Track Record of Success

- ⇒ The average attendance rate is near 100 per cent
- ⇒ Students academic outcomes have dramatically improved, and many of them have achieved outstanding leadership and sporting success
- ⇒ Current students have received numerous academic and sporting awards
- ⇒ Past students have progressed on to further study in Perth, becoming role models for younger students coming from East Kimberley.
- ⇒ Past students have returned to offer tutoring and mentoring to younger students who wish to follow the same pathway to success

Success stories

Since the establishment of KEEP in 2011, many students have come through the program and have progressed onto Tertiary studies at University and TAFE, or have secured apprenticeships in mining, hospitality and other commercial endeavors.

Over the last 10 years KEEP has provided a successful pathway for students from remote communities.

The overall success comes from students being culturally supported on their journey, with strong connection and relationships built between House Parents and students along with the wider family and community.

KEEP provides Boarding and Scholarship facilities in Perth and we continue to look at opportunities where students can receive a high quality education, enjoy access to a range of extracurricular activities, live in a stable family like environment and get a chance to increase their worldview – opening their eyes to the possibilities in life.



Mentoring by Dr Trust, Wunan

Who is eligible for KEEP?

To be eligible for KEEP you need to:

- Be a secondary student
- Be committed to completing Year 12
- Have good school attendance
- Have financial and family support

Visit our website for more information on how to apply to KEEP.

Wunan welcomes enquiries from individuals and corporates who are keen to support this innovative program. Please call Wunan's KEEP Coordinator on 08 9168 3881 or email keep.wunan@wunan.org.au