



BRIDGE BUILDING

SUPPORTING
ON-COUNTRY EDUCATION

ABOUT US.



The ABC Foundation Ltd, Community Bridge Building course provides educators, teachers and university students with an understanding of how to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children in remote and regional communities, through establishing and delivering culturally appropriate alternative On-Country education.

The Community Bridge Building course is offered as an introductory level and also considered as an induction course for new educators or for those still at university and as a secondary level for educators already established in a community school. Schools can also receive ongoing support and mentoring in addition to the stand-alone courses which will be tailored to suit their community and schooling environment.

THE PROGRAM.

The course will provide practical tools to support educators in understanding how to connect and identify already established connections to build on, whilst creating sustainable and positive On-Country education learning experiences. The course will also provide a better understanding on how to engage with the whole community, including the importance of involving elders, parents and guardians in the learning process while linking up other support services.

The course content will provide an understanding of why it is necessary for

educators in remote and regional areas with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to create a contemporary, safe and culturally appropriate alternative education space both off and on school grounds. This includes an understanding of the barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face when coming into an institutionalised western environment and incorporates why it's important for educators to understand their role in supporting these families to revalue education while empowering them to be involved in the sharing of their knowledge.



Embracing this alternative On-Country immersive and experiential learning style encourages a two-way learning environment as a pathway for education.

Educators will learn how to adapt their teaching practices to better meet the needs of the community, acknowledging that the traditional Western classrooms are unfamiliar and instead the focus needs to be on providing a collaborative and safe learning space that supports engagement from parents and the community and improves overall attendance and attainment of the children.

[1] Based on promising evidence based On-Country Education Programs, ABC Foundation Ltd 2018

COURSE OVERVIEW.



The Community Bridge Building Course is offered as a half-day workshop, with Level 1 as an induction course for educators new to remote and regional teaching and Level 2 for those already well established in the community school system.

Both courses are designed to support educators in navigating challenges and strengthening relationships with the children, their families and the broader community.

Duration:

4 hours (Morning or Afternoon sessions available)

Attendees:

Up to 15 people

Cost:

\$2,500 (plus any required travel)



COURSE CONTENT.

Learning Outcomes:	Level 1: • Introductory • Induction Course	Level 2: • Community Essentials • Course
Objective 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide practical ideas, ways of working and guiding principles on how to make positive and meaningful connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their families, guardians and caregivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and celebrate the relationships you have already built in the community and connections you how you can better involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and the importance of these relationships.
Objective 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve your understanding of the different community needs and what these means for children and their families that engage vs are disengaged from the education system and the different/flexible approaches required to connect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve your understanding of the different community needs and what these means for children and their families that engage vs are disengaged from the education system and the different/flexible approaches required to connect.
Objective 3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to establish an alternative culturally appropriate On-Country learning space, aligning both to curriculum needs and incorporates an immersive and experiential learning style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to establish an alternative culturally appropriate On-Country learning space, aligning both to curriculum needs and incorporates an immersive and experiential learning style.
Objective 4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an understanding of the importance of developing a whole of community approach to education. What agency support to look for and the important role stakeholders play in remote and regional communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the specific support services in your community and better understand the role agencies and stakeholders can play. How to connect and seek to involve a whole of community approach to alternative education.

Course Framework

All courses are delivered with an On-Country approach, acknowledging the importance placed on the 'Connection to Country' and how storytelling, song, dance or lesson content is key for successful engagement, through a two way learning environment.

