

PartnerUpdate

GANBINA OCTOBER 2024

THE POWER OF INSPIRATION

As Australia's most successful Indigenous school to work transition program, Ganbina has empowered hundreds of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve their full potential.

But we don't work in isolation. Our Ganbina family of partners – educators, the community, corporate and philanthropic partners and individual donors – is vital to the success of our program.

Many of our partners offer our participants a unique range of learning experiences, networking opportunities and mentor relationships that have the power to change young lives.

Lachlan Harlow, Ganbina's General Manager - Projects, knows all about the impact of that partner power first-hand.

In 2014, he was just 19 years old and in his first year at university when he attended a private dinner for Ganbina participants. The dinner was hosted by John Gandel AC, the driving force behind Australia's largest shopping centre, Chadstone.

"Experiences like that are 100 per cent inspirational to young people and they are such an important part of our program," said Lachlan. "It was the first time I had ever met a business leader like John and I learned so much from him.

"It was a real privilege to meet him again this year when our team visited to thank him and his wife Pauline for their long-standing support of Ganbina."

"Hearing John's story made me realise how important it is to pursue your own dreams."



LACHLAN HARLOW

Ganbina General Manager – Projects



Lachlan was a Ganbina participant from 2010-2020. Before joining Ganbina, he worked with CBRE, the Commission for Children and Young People and with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Two of Lachlan's siblings, Mitchell and Flynn, were also Ganbina participants. Lachlan has a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University and was the first person in his family to attend university.

Lachlan is passionate about helping young Ganbina participants achieve their full potential in life.

"I know first-hand what an amazing impact Ganbina and their partners can have on a young person's life," he said.

"There is no way I would be where I am today without their support and I want to pay that forward."

"Growing up as a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung man Shepparton, my mum and nan were Aboriginal. Mum and dad didn't have a lot of money and sometimes we kids missed out on a few things for sure. That's just the way it was.

"Ganbina always believed in me and my abilities, and did everything they could to help me make good choices.

"They encouraged me to take up a scholarship at Melbourne Grammar School, and helped out financially so I could go on excursions with the other kids. It was the same at Monash University – they encouraged me to enrol and helped with the cost of work clothes and rent when I needed it.

"Our partners were always very supportive of me too.

"When I was studying, I was able to get part-time jobs with both Woolworths and Crown Resorts to help support myself.

"Along the way, I met many other Ganbina partners at special events like networking functions, dinners and launches and those experiences were just life-changing.

"Meeting Ganbina's partners taught me so much, and really opened my eyes to so many things I just wouldn't have known about otherwise. I also met some wonderful mentors along the way who are still in my life today."

"I'm living proof of the power of Ganbina's partners to positively impact young people's lives."



AGENTS OF CHANGE IN ACTION



Lachlan Harlow at a Ganbina partner function in 2016 at PwC, with fellow Ganbina participants (L-R) Taylah Jones, Cody Mohammed and Talitha Macrae.

By extending a hand up, not a hand out, Ganbina's approach is unlike any other in Australia – and results prove that it works.

Ganbina's goal has always been to partner with young people to help them make the most of their education, training and employment opportunities so that they can fulfil their potential, get a secure job, and live productive, financially independent lives as adults.

Confident, skilled and capable, our young Ganbina graduates have the knowledge and tools they need to create a great future for themselves, their children and their children's children.

At the same time, they act as powerful 'Agents of Change' within their own communities, leading and inspiring others, by example, to follow in their footsteps.

As our communities develop more and more positive role models and leaders, so too will they break the legacy cycle of welfare dependency and poverty.

REAL IMPACT

88.7% OF GANBINA PARTICIPANTS

graduate from Year 12 (vs national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 graduation rate of 68%).

98% OF GANBINA PARTICIPANTS

complete their full year of education each year.

100% OF GANBINA PARTICIPANTS

completed their relevant year of training in 2021.

97% OF GANBINA PARTICIPANTS

of working age had paid employment in 2021.

2 IN 3 GANBINA PARTICIPANTS

transition from Year 12 to further education and employment.

Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve true social and economic equality.





Ganbina partners at Ganbina's 25th Anniversary at ANZ. L-R Sylvia Geddes (financial supporter); Jim O'Connor (founding partner); Kirsty Allen (Sidney Myer Fund); and Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia).

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH. HELEN KELLER

Many of our partners have been with us for a long period of time. Their belief in our purpose, and their continued support, has enabled us to carry on our work with certainty and follow through on our aspirations and plans for the future, even in tough times.

One such long term partner is the Gandel Foundation.

Vedran Drakulic OAM, the Foundation's former CEO, explained the reason for the Foundation's continued support.

"Ganbina is addressing what we believe is one of the underlying causes of Indigenous inequality in Australia which is a lack of education and training.

"Results show that the Ganbina program is really hitting the mark in terms of making positive, lasting change in Indigenous communities."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners who make up our Ganbina family for their support, encouragement and belief in our work. We remain firm in our commitment to expanding the Ganbina model around Australia.

If you would like to partner with us, please don't hesitate to reach out to our CEO, Anthony Cavanagh, on + 61 428 217 332 or anthony@ganbina.com.au

"In the next five to 10 years, we want to go from supporting hundreds of kids in one community (Shepparton), to supporting thousands of kids in hundreds of communities around Australia."

Anthony Cavanagh, CEO, Ganbina



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