



ganbina

Partner Update

Ganbina Agents of Change

The Importance of Education, Training, and Employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People

Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people through education, training, and employment is critical to advancing equity, closing opportunity gaps, and fostering long-term social and economic wellbeing.

At Ganbina we believe education provides the foundation for lifelong learning, personal development, and informed participation in society. Access to quality education from early childhood through to tertiary levels enables young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to shape their own futures and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Vocational training and skills development further strengthen pathways to employment by equipping young people with industry-relevant capabilities and practical experience. This not only enhances individual career prospects but also supports

workforce diversity and cultural representation across sectors.

Meaningful employment delivers more than economic benefit it fosters independence, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth into sustained employment helps to break cycles of disadvantage, while also recognising and harnessing their unique strengths, perspectives, and potential.

Corporate and community partnerships play a vital role in ensuring these pathways are accessible, culturally safe, and aligned with the aspirations of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our continued commitment to education, training, and employment initiatives is essential to building stronger, more inclusive futures for all Australians.

Key Status

Supporting the education, training, and employment outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people remains Ganbina's priority.

The following data, drawn from the 2021 Census conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, provides a current snapshot of progress and the areas where continued focus is needed.

Further Education Pathways

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young Adults (Aged 25–34)

Approximately 47% of people aged 25–34 had completed tertiary education at Certificate III level or higher. This reflects a steady increase over the past two decades, signalling positive momentum. However, this figure remains below the 2021 milestone required to stay on course to meet national education targets by 2031.

Among the 50,690 individuals who achieved post-school qualifications:

50,690
individuals



63% **attained** a Certificate III or IV

15.6% **completed** a Diploma or Advanced Diploma

16.5% **hold** a Bachelor degree

2.3% **obtained** a Graduate Diploma

2.9% **achieved** a Postgraduate degree

Youth Engagement in Employment, Education, or Training

Between 2001 and 2021, the proportion of First Nations youth fully engaged in employment, education, or training increased from 48% to 58%. While encouraging, the 2021 figure remains below the trajectory needed to meet the national engagement target by 2031.

Student Learning Potential – Year 12 Completion

In 2021, 68% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–24 had completed Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. Although this represents measurable improvement, it falls short of the 2021 progress point of 74% required to align with the 2031 goal.

Importantly, educational achievement continues beyond the typical school age. Of those who had not completed Year 12 or equivalent in 2011, 27% had done so by 2016, underscoring the value of flexible and ongoing learning opportunities.

Providing opportunities for our young people to engage with key local and state employers is vital to supporting informed career pathways and future workforce readiness. Ganbina events offer valuable exposure to real world industries, direct engagement with employers, and insights into training and employment options.

By connecting our youth with potential career mentors and role models, Ganbina events play a crucial role in building aspiration, confidence, and practical understanding of the opportunities available within their communities and beyond.

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER
giving young people a head start on their future

The 12th Annual Ganbina Careers Night

Advancing Youth Aspirations

On 7 May, Ganbina proudly hosted the 12th Annual Careers Night at Eastbank Riverlinks, an event thoughtfully designed to inspire, empower, and inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 10 to 12. This signature event provided a highly structured and purposeful forum for young participants many of whom are actively considering their post-school pathways to engage directly with a broad cross-section of local and state employers, as well as tertiary and vocational education providers.

Throughout the evening, students gained firsthand exposure to diverse industries and educational opportunities through meaningful dialogue and interactive sessions. These engagements are instrumental in cultivating aspiration, deepening career awareness, and supporting informed, confident decision-making at a critical stage in their educational development.

Ganbina's Careers Night exemplifies our commitment to delivering high-impact, future-focused initiatives that connect young people with the networks, knowledge, and support necessary to unlock their full potential. The ongoing support of our valued funders and partners remains vital in making these transformative experiences possible.

Event Activities Overview

The evening commenced with a welcome followed by a series of structured, engaging activities designed to maximise interaction and learning.

Interactive Engagement

Activities such as **"Ganbingo"**, where participants engaged with exhibitors to complete a game card, and **"Guess the Lollies"**, aimed to encourage conversation and interaction between students and professionals.

Panel Discussion

A moderated panel featuring representatives from the Australian Defence Force, Early Learning Victoria, and Headspace provided valuable insights on **key workforce skills, current job market opportunities, and the role of organisations** like Ganbina. Participants were invited to ask questions, and panellists were formally thanked for their contributions.

Guest Speaker

Levi Power delivered an inspiring and authentic presentation, sharing his personal career journey, the challenges he faced, and the importance of resilience, family, and mentorship. He was presented with a token of appreciation on behalf of Ganbina.

Participant and Community Engagement

Participants were encouraged to attend with parents or support people, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment that ensured everyone received consistent information and had the opportunity to engage meaningfully.

Event Snapshot



**32 Ganbina
Participants Attended**



**38 Family Members
Attended**



**27 Exhibitors
Attended**

YOUTH-CENTERED AND EMPOWERING

Participant and Community Engagement

“ The Ambulance Victoria stall because I want to be a paramedic and it was really interesting. ”

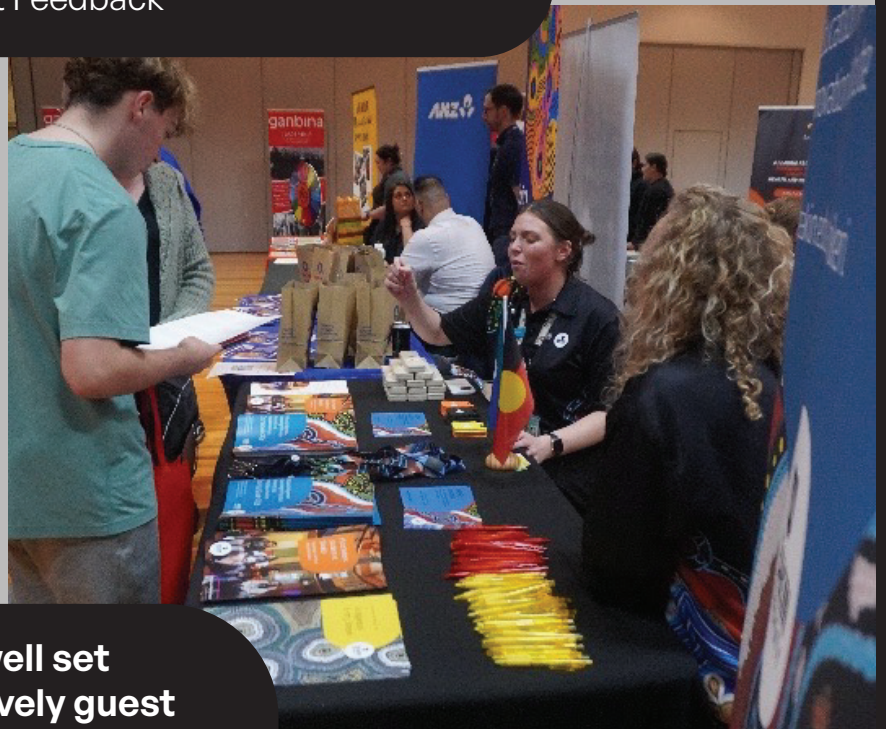
Participant Feedback

“ Maxima and ANZ because I am starting there in a few weeks. ”

Participant Feedback



Rumbalara Cooperative and Ganbina Participant



Ganbina Participants enjoy the conversations with exhibitors

“ Very well set out, lovely guest speakers, and fun activity. ”

Exhibitors Feedback



MC Katrina Penfold with Guest Speaker Levi Power

“ One of the best nights I look forward to. Very well organised and always a pleasure to engage with young people! ”

Exhibitors Feedback

“ I found the easy communication with all the organisations and the fact that most of them were Aboriginal people with real life experience made it so much better. ”

Participant Feedback

Participant and Community Engagement

“ Fantastic to be a part of such an engaging and positive experience. ”

Exhibitors Feedback



Australian Defence Force Braydan Bux and Ganbina Participant

“ Excellent range of pathways and university stalls and each stall had excellent presentations. ”

Participant Feedback



Alex from Maxima and Ganbina Participant

“ Everything was beautiful and it's good to know what tracks to get to. ”

Participant Feedback



MC Katrina Penfold with Panel Members Braydan Bux, Joanne Burkandt, Neha Samar

“ Having help with the questions and people helping us understand what the programs are actually about. ”

Participant Feedback

“ Great info sharing opportunities and connections. ”

Exhibitors Feedback

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