



ganbina

# Partner Update

## Ganbina Agents of Change

**Ganbina’s vision as Agents of Change continues to expand in 2026, with strong opportunities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people locally and across Australia to achieve their full learning potential.**

National Indigenous data reinforces the importance of our work in strengthening pathways to further education, increasing retention, and improving long term employment outcomes.

### **For Ganbina, this means:**

- Deepening our focus on early engagement, ensuring children and young people are supported from school entry through to post school transitions.
- Strengthening education and employment pathways, responding to national trends that show:
  - Only one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 and over are currently studying.
  - 44% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged 20–64 have completed a non school qualification at Certificate III or above.
- Building workforce capability to deliver consistent, high quality case management, career planning, and family engagement across all sites.
- Scaling program delivery, supported by digital systems (such as online registrations), improved reporting processes, and aligned workforce structures.
- Enhancing cultural, community and school partnerships to better connect young people to education, training, and employment opportunities.
- Growing a workforce that is adaptable and community embedded, capable of meeting increased demand for support, navigating complex barriers, and leading change at a local level.

**“Overall, these insights reaffirm the critical role of Ganbina’s workforce in empowering young people to progress through education and into meaningful employment, driving long term change for families, communities, and future generations.”**

Paulleen Markwort, Executive General Manager

# Ganbina's 2026 Youth Leadership Program

Our Youth Leadership Program commenced February with a powerful day of connection, goal setting and shared expectations for the year ahead. The gathering brought participants together with local community members who helped shape a culturally grounded and inspiring start to the program.

The day featured contributions from respected community voices, including Ganbina's 2025 Youth of the Year, Mya Falla, who shared her leadership journey, and Michael Bourke, who led a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country. Their involvement highlighted the strength of local cultural leadership and the importance of grounding our young people in community as they begin their leadership journey.

Participants also collaborated to develop a collective statement that captures their shared purpose for the year:

**“ Together, we continue to foster strong, supported pathways so our young people can reach their full potential. ”**

This youth created quote reflects their commitment to leadership, community and supporting one another to thrive. With families, community leaders and supporters standing alongside them, the 2026 cohort has set a strong foundation for a transformative year ahead.



**A powerful day of connection, goal setting and shared expectations for the year ahead.**

# Supporting Tertiary Education Outcomes

HANSEN LITTLE  
FOUNDATION

Education, Training and employment remain at the heart of Ganbina's work. Through our valued partnership with the Hansen Little Foundation, we continue to open doors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people by supporting their university, vocational and certificate-level studies across a wide range of pathways.

In 2026, we are proud to celebrate 17 outstanding scholarship recipients, each forging their own path and breaking glass ceilings in their chosen fields. Their commitment to further education reflects the strength, resilience and ambition of our young people, and the transformative impact that culturally grounded support can have on long-term success.

Ganbina is honoured to stand beside these emerging leaders as they continue to uplift their families, inspire their communities and shape a brighter future for the generations to come.



**Kiah Atkinson**



**Jet James**



**Savannah Payne**



**Jack Aylett**



**Rhiannon Marsters**



**Harmony Russell**



**Maddison Chisholm**



**Nerrissa Leitch**



**Jakes Zerbato**



**Jordan Chapman**



**Jazmin Mathers**



**Damon Blake**



**Lincoln Atkinson**



**Kady-Anne Paton**



**Grace Jones**



**Mya Falla**



**Charlie Payne**

**“ I’m proud to be a recipient of the 2026 Hansen Little Foundation Scholarship. This support helps me continue striving for academic achievement and personal development while working towards a brighter sustainability focused future, I also hope to use my use education to contribute positively to the Aboriginal community and the land we live on. ”**

Participant

**“ I am grateful to have been awarded this scholarship. It gives me the opportunity to drop down my hours at work so I can focus more on my study while also relieving some financial stress, Thank you. ”**

Participant

**“ I’m extremely grateful to be a recipient of a Hansen Little Scholarship in 2026. The financial support of the scholarship provides me with the freedom to focus wholly on my studies without the burden of financial stress. This is a big year for me, first year of university and the scholarship will allow me to purchase the foundational tools and resources to set me up for success, Thank you. ”**

Participant

# Community collaboration

Ganbina joined a range of local organisations for the **Shepparton Back to School** following an invitation from the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI).

Our Head Office team hosted an information stall, engaging students, families and community partners. A key highlight was the introduction of our new iPad based registration process, which enabled online enrolments for Ganbina programs to be completed in real time. The event reinforced the importance of ensuring children and young people are well supported and prepared for a successful school year, as well as for their future education and employment pathways.



# Ganbina Alumni Program

The Ganbina Alumni Program keeps past participants connected to opportunity, culture, and each other, turning individual success into shared impact. Through mentoring, networking, and storytelling, alumni remain active role models for younger cohorts, open doors to employment and training, and help us track long term outcomes across community, study, and careers. For partners, the program is a practical way to engage with a motivated network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders at different stages of their journey, early career through to senior professionals and business owners.

Recently, we hosted a relaxed **Formula 1 Balcony Gathering** at our Ganbina Melbourne office, bringing alumnus together to soak up the atmosphere rolled across the city and, more importantly, to reconnect. The afternoon was full of warm conversations, new introductions, and check ins that strengthen the ties across our network. Events like this are intentionally simple and welcoming, they prioritise cultural safety, belonging, and genuine relationships, because that's what turns a contact list into a living community.



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