



ganbina

Partner Update

Impact and Importance of partnerships

Children and young people thrive....

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We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and young people thrive when the systems around them work in genuine partnership. Achieving strong educational outcomes requires coordinated collaboration across schools, communities, families and organisations that support learner wellbeing and engagement.

Education strategies across jurisdictions consistently reinforce that improved outcomes depend on safe, inclusive school environments working alongside families, community organisations and educators. They emphasise shared responsibility, local decision making and community led support as essential to lifting engagement, attendance and achievement.

These approaches set clear expectations that learners should be supported to reach their full potential through responsive practice and strong partnerships between schools and the broader community. Collaboration is identified as central to creating learning environments where children feel safe, valued and connected, conditions proven to drive stronger educational outcomes.

Evidence shows that students thrive when programs are grounded in local context, connected to community and supported by trusted intermediaries who understand the needs of young people. Partnerships between schools and community led organisations play a critical role in strengthening trust with families and ensuring young people receive coordinated, wrap around support aligned with their goals and aspirations. Organisations such as Ganbina demonstrate how targeted, locally informed support can help students navigate education pathways, build confidence and stay connected to opportunities that reflect their interests and future ambitions.

The 2026 Gold Coast State Secondary Education Excellence Awards

The 2026 Gold Coast Secondary Schools Alliance hosted a vibrant Masquerade Ball on 13 June 2026 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event brought together leaders, educators and community partners to celebrate outstanding staff, programs and initiatives across the region's 19 state high schools. With 73 nominations submitted across multiple categories, the awards showcased innovation, collaboration and excellence across the state education system. From this highly competitive field, principal award winners were recognised for their exceptional contributions to improving student outcomes and strengthening the broader education ecosystem.

Ganbina was honoured to be nominated among this distinguished group, a reflection of the sector's recognition of our impact and our role in strengthening partnerships between schools, families, communities and industry to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to achieve their full potential.

Ganbina was delighted to attend the event in support of our valued Venture Partner, Keebra Park State School. Representing Keebra Park were Principal Adam Branis, Deputy Principal Kylie Oxenford and award nominee and Project Officer Angel Riley. Ganbina was represented by CEO Anthony Cavanagh, Expansion General Manager Lisa Marsden, Project Coordinator Soraya Atkinson and Board Member Rachel Woodford, alongside Steve and Anne Le Prou from Kennards.

We were especially proud to see the Mibiny Soring for Success Program nominated in the Innovation category, a testament to the strength and forward thinking nature of our partnership.

With families, community leaders and supporters standing alongside them, the 2026 cohort has set a strong foundation for a transformative year ahead.

“ As a Board Member for Ganbina it was lovely to be part of the QLD Secondary Awards for Innovation, despite not coming away with the win, the staff have already won in my opinion. The work Lisa, Soraya and Angel are undertaking in Queensland is enriching the lives of so many First Nations students. They don't need an award to know they are making an incredible impact, it's evident from the number of enrolments and feedback from the community. ”

Rachel Woodford – Ganbina Board Member

“ As Deputy Principal, I am incredibly proud of our Education Excellence Awards nomination and recognition alongside other Gold Coast State High Schools. While the nomination was an honour, our strong partnership with Ganbina is the real win for our school community. Through Ganbina, we are incredibly fortunate to have Angel supporting our students, and I am proud to be learning from, and working alongside such an amazing team. ”

Kylie Oxenford – Deputy Principal Keebra Park State High School



“ Being invited to the Excellence in Education Awards Night was an absolute honor, especially representing the Kennards Hire Foundation and Ganbina.

To be nominated for an award on the night is true recognition of the excellent work being done by the team at Keebra Park State High School and is an achievement of the highest order in itself.

Hearing the stories of the work you do at the school and through Ganbina was inspiring, and it is reassuring to see that the future for First Nations and Torres Strait Islander young people is in such good hands.

Thank you so much for the invitation—it was truly inspiring. ”

Steve Le Prou – Area Manager Qld Operations Kennards

“ What an incredible evening such a meaningful recognition for Keebra Park’s Mibiny Program, which was nominated in the Innovation category. While they didn’t take out the award, the night sparked valuable conversations and further strengthened the partnership between Ganbina and Keebra Park. It also created an exciting new connection with Steve from Kennards, opening the door for future opportunities and discussions to support students in the Mibiny Program. ”

Lisa Marsden – Expansion General Manager

Ganbina's Expansion Pilot Project

Ganbina is a pivotal phase in our expansion project, guided by a structured Discovery, Design, Implementation and Evaluation framework. Our approach reflects and emphasises the importance of disciplined growth, strong partnerships and maintaining fidelity to Ganbina's proven Aboriginal-led model.

The Discovery phase has focused on understanding local contexts across priority regions, mapping community aspirations, and assessing readiness within schools, industry partners and service systems. This work has confirmed strong national demand for Ganbina's model, particularly in communities seeking culturally grounded, employment-focused pathways for Aboriginal young people. Discovery findings also highlight the importance of early engagement with Elders, families and local organisations to ensure expansion is community-led and culturally safe.

Building on this, the Design phase has centred on co-developing tailored program models with local stakeholders. We know successful design requires aligning Ganbina's core program architecture with regional workforce capacity, school priorities and local labour market opportunities. This phase has also included strengthening governance, refining data systems and establishing clear implementation protocols to support consistency across sites.

The project has been progressing Implementation, with staged rollouts supported by workforce development, Venture Partner onboarding and strengthened cross-sector collaboration. Early implementation reporting highlights strong engagement from schools and employers, reinforcing the value of Ganbina's role as a trusted intermediary connecting young people, families and opportunity pathways.

A robust Evaluation framework underpins all phases, ensuring continuous learning and accountability. This includes tracking educational engagement, employment outcomes, cultural safety indicators and partner satisfaction. Insights from evaluation will guide future scaling decisions and ensure the model remains responsive to community needs.

Together, these phases position Ganbina to deliver a sustainable, nationally scalable model that strengthens outcomes for Aboriginal young people while deepening partnerships across the education and employment ecosystem.

Meet the Team

Expansion Pilot Office (Brisbane)



Lisa Marsden
General Manager



Soraya Atkinson
Project Coordinator



Memphis Henderson
Administration & Project
Support Officer



Tracy Bevan
National Manager

Our Venture Partners

Ganbina's Expansion Pilot Project is a cornerstone of our vision to extend our programs and insights to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities along Australia's East Coast. Since 2016, we've been committed to scaling access to education, employment, and training opportunities, with the goal of achieving social and economic equality through national expansion by 2030.

Our approach is grounded in respectful, collaborative partnerships with communities that express interest in working with us. Where mutual agreement is established, we offer:

- Access to Ganbina's JOBS4U2 model, adapted to meet the specific needs of each community, along with supporting frameworks and systems.
- Ongoing support for up to five years to ensure successful implementation, after which communities assume full ownership and autonomy to sustain the program independently.

Keebra Park State High School

Commencing in mid 2024, the Mibiny 'Soaring for Success' initiative at Keebra Park State High School is a co designed program that strengthens educational engagement, cultural identity and future pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Built on a foundation of partnership between Ganbina, the school and community, the program provides holistic, culturally grounded support that enables students to thrive both in school and beyond.

The core elements of the program include:

Education Program – Scholarships — providing targeted financial and practical assistance to remove barriers to participation and ensure students have the resources needed for success.

Accelerated Learning Program — delivering tailored academic support that strengthens foundational skills, builds confidence and accelerates progress toward individual learning goals.

Driver Skills Program — supporting students to develop safe driving skills and work toward obtaining their learner and provisional licences, a key enabler of independence and employment access.

Employment and Training Program — connecting students with industry partners, training opportunities and real world experiences that prepare them for meaningful post school pathways.

Together, these components form a comprehensive model that supports students academically, culturally and vocationally, ensuring they are equipped to “soar for success” as they move through school and into their future pathways.



Younity - Indigenous Pathways Program

Commencing in 2024, the Younity, Indigenous Pathways Program is designed to provide culturally informed, wrap around support that strengthens educational engagement and future opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The program brings together three core components that work in tandem to support students academically, socially and vocationally.

The key elements of the program include:

Education Program – Scholarships — providing targeted financial and practical support to remove barriers to participation and ensure students have access to the resources they need to thrive at school.

Accelerated Learning Program — delivering tailored academic support that builds foundational skills, boosts confidence and accelerates progress toward individual learning goals.

Employment and Training Program — connecting students with industry partners, training opportunities and real world experiences that prepare them for meaningful post school pathways.

Together, these components form a holistic model that supports students to strengthen their learning, build their aspirations and transition confidently into further education, training or employment.

Tomorrow Today Education Foundation – Anganya

Commencing in mid 2024, the Anganya (“friend”) initiative with the Tomorrow Today Education Foundation is designed to provide targeted, culturally informed support that strengthens educational engagement and long term opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The project brings together key elements that address both immediate learning needs and future pathway development.

The core components of the project include:

Education Support Scholarships — providing financial and practical assistance to ensure students can fully participate in their schooling and access the resources they need to succeed.

Accelerated Learning Program — delivering tailored academic support to help students strengthen foundational skills, build confidence and progress more rapidly toward their learning goals.

Employment and Training Pathways Program — connecting students with industry partners, training opportunities and real world experiences that prepare them for meaningful post school pathways.

Together, these elements form a holistic model that supports students academically, culturally and vocationally, ensuring they are equipped to thrive both in school and beyond.

Taungurung Land and Waters Council

Commencing in 2026, Ganbina’s partnership with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council represents a culturally grounded initiative designed to strengthen educational engagement and long term opportunities for Taungurung young people. Built on a foundation of self determination and community leadership, the project supports students to pursue their aspirations while remaining connected to culture, Country and identity.

The core element of the project includes:

Education Scholarships — providing targeted financial and practical support to ensure Taungurung students can fully participate in their education, access essential learning resources and pursue pathways that reflect their goals and strengths.

This initiative forms part of Ganbina’s broader commitment to working in genuine partnership with Traditional Owner groups to deliver programs that are community led, culturally safe and responsive to local priorities. As the project progresses, it will continue to evolve through ongoing collaboration with Taungurung Elders, families and community representatives to ensure it delivers meaningful, lasting impact for young people.



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