Building a stronger future for Shepparton



CAREER NIGHT... Ganbina's Jobs4U2 program has been creating pathways to education, training and employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Shepparton for more than three decades. Pictured back: Abigail Madikhula -Youth Leadership Coordinator, Hayden Newton-King – Employment and Training Coordinator, Education Program Project Officers, Paris Taylor, Sandee Gladman and Elizzabeth Cleary. Front row: Tracy Hardie – General Manager Shepparton and Echuca Operations, Nerrissa Leitch – Senior Education Program Project Officer/Echuca, Keith Hearn – Coordinator/Echuca. *Photo: Emma Harrop*

IN REGIONAL communities, creating genuine pathways to education, training and employment is one of the most powerful investments we can make. In Shepparton, the Ganbina Jobs4U2 program has been doing exactly that for more than three decades, transforming the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people while strengthening the entire Goulburn Valley community.

Jobs4U2 is recognised as one of Australia's leading school-to-work transition programs for our participants, supporting participants from childhood through to employment and career development. The program focuses on education, training, employment and life skills, providing practical support that helps them achieve their goals and realise their potential.

What makes the program particularly valuable is its long-term approach. Rather than offering short-term interventions, Ganbina walks alongside young people throughout critical stages of their development. From educational scholarships and tutoring to career planning, leadership opportunities, job readiness training and connections to employers, the program addresses barriers that too often prevent young people from reaching their potential.

The impact extends far beyond individual participants. When young people complete school, gain qualifications and secure meaningful employment, the benefits ripple through families, workplaces and the broader community. Stronger educational outcomes contribute to economic growth, community wellbeing and increased confidence among future generations. Ganbina's reported Year 12 completion rates demonstrate the success of this model and the importance of sustained investment in Aboriginal-led solutions.

As Shepparton continues to grow and diversify, programs like Jobs4U2 remind us that opportunity must be accessible to everyone. Ganbina's work is a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities believe in their young people, invest in their aspirations and provide the support needed to succeed.

The continued success of Jobs4U2 is not just a win for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth; it is a win for Shepparton and the future of the Goulburn Valley.

Tracy Hardie, General Manager Shepparton and Echuca, leads a professional local team. To learn more or get in touch, contact Tracy and the team on (03) 5821 7333.



Building strong futures through training and practical development

When it comes to employment and training, the skills and experiences learned should be about more than simply getting a job but building rewarding careers.

At Ganbina, this is central to their work in employment and training. By working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, the local community and its partners, Ganbina aims to build confidence, strengthen skills, and create pathways to a strong future through mentoring, industry engagement, career events and practical learning opportunities.

Ganbina recently held its Career Night, bringing together almost 200 people; encompassing participants, family, community members, industry partners and professionals; to connect, share stories, and explore career pathways across Greater Shepparton and beyond.

The evening was a valuable opportunity for participants to learn from employers and build confidence as they consider their future employment options.

Ganbina offers a wide range of programs to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people on their journey, from the First Steps to Employment Academy, which builds confidence and strengthens capabilities for future success, to the Driver's Program, helping young people to get their driver's license and open the door for more opportunities.



Spotlight on Ganbina Accelerated Learning Program

Participants can also engage with Accelerated Learning Programs for Primary and Secondary School levels, providing tailored support for students at all levels, as well as extension opportunities for high achievers seeking to further challenge themselves and reach their full potential.

The Secondary Program is delivered in partnership with Kip McGrath and Shepparton Tutoring Centre, extending knowledge and preparing students for testing, exams and future study pathways.

The Primary Program is an internal program that supports young learners to further develop their confidence and skills to achieve at a high level, encouraging them to extend their learning and knowledge while thriving in a supportive group environment.

To learn more about Ganbina and its programs, call **(03) 5821 7333**

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