Future Footprints

Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
About the Future Footprints Program

The Future Footprints program is an initiative of the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA) and aims to support Indigenous students from remote regions in Western Australia attending boarding schools in metropolitan Perth.

The Association aims to support Indigenous student engagement in education and to enhance their transition to and from school, to further education, employment and training.

The program aims to:
- Increase the number of Indigenous youths attending Independent Boarding schools in WA
- Lift Indigenous year 10-12 retention and attainment
- Build sustainable partnerships between schools, Indigenous parents and Communities, as well as higher education institutions and training providers.

Future Footprints assists Indigenous young people from regional and remote areas to negotiate the often difficult transition from home to a metropolitan boarding school. This is primarily through mentoring and a cultural, social and educational events program.
Hello...

2011 has seen a changing face to the Future Footprints Program. The Program has the same focus but the role of the staff and coordination has changed. The previous Coordinator, Fran van Riessen has moved to VET and the two Liaison Officers, Andrew Beck and Farah Rind have moved on to outside employment. Farah works with Department of Indigenous Affairs and Andrew is with Madalah. In effect the Program has employed myself as Coordinator, Roni Forrest.

I have extensive experience in the education and tertiary sector and vast experience working in Indigenous affairs and community development. I relocated from Geraldton WA to take up the position of Coordinator in March 2011.

As a result of the support Future Footprints offers, many of the schools have set up programs within their schools in close partnership with myself. I regularly meet students through school visits and the Term Student Council meetings. I also maintain regular contact with Program Coordinators within schools to monitor students and to discuss any further support for students.

In addition to this support, a range of social and cultural activities and events are held throughout the school year. All events are designed to ease the transition into boarding and to support them culturally and emotionally.

In May, students got together and recognised Sorry Day with a range of speakers and musicians, honouring the day. In June, we held a successful Careers Expo, during NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week and have held two very energetic workshop camps for boarders who cannot get home during the Boarders’ long weekends.

Many inspiring speakers have been guest at the Term Student Council meetings. We welcomed Dr Anita Heiss an Indigenous writer from Sydney and listened to a very inspiring talk given by Dr Joylene Koolmatrie on her experiences as a child of the Stolen Generations and her subsequent educational journey.

Many more cultural events and activities, including leadership programs, have been planned for 2012. I look forward to working and supporting the students of the Future Footprints Program.

Roni Forrest
The Student Council, which has representatives from all the schools, meets once a term to provide a voice for the students and develop their leadership aspirations. The students also have the opportunity to access role models and mentors.

Four gatherings have been held at Christ Church Grammar School, Wesley College, Presbyterian Ladies’ College (PLC) and St Brigid’s College. At the first meeting, students elected Hale student Trevor Menmuir as President and fellow Hale student Jono Farrer as Vice President.

Students have heard from role models such as Tabita Hunter from the Kimberley Klub, Maree Ansey from HWE Leighton and Andrew Beck from Madalah. Many inspiring speakers have been guests at the Term Student Council meetings, such as Dr Anita Heiss and Dr Joylene Koolmatrie.

At the first Council meeting, students had the opportunity to make suggestions for activities they would like to participate in for 2011. Suggestions included; a Combined Sports Day, year 8-9’s and year 10-12’s social, a beach outing, and to organise another Careers Expo Day, as it was enjoyed by all in previous years. Organising fundraisers, such as free dress day, were also discussed to give students the ability to organise more events and NAIDOC activities, and to be more involved in community and school events.

The second Student Council meeting, held at Wesley College, coincided with Sorry Day. There were over 50 students in attendance. The College invited Mrs Joylene Koolmatrie a member of the Stolen Generations who spoke to the students about her story, how she overcame her loss and grief, to go to University and graduate as a psychologist. She has a very inspiring story and the students enjoyed it very much.

The third Council meeting was held at St Brigid’s College with motivational guest speaker and writer Dr Anita Heiss from Sydney. Anita is the author of non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women’s fiction, poetry, social commentary and travel articles. She is a regular guest at writers’ festivals and travels internationally performing her work and lecturing on Indigenous literature. She is an Indigenous Literacy Day Ambassador and a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales. Anita divides her time between writing, public speaking, MCing, and facilitating workshops.

Anita commented, “The students I met that night, were engaged, intelligent and full of potential and I was grateful for the opportunity to be reminded also of the passion of youth”.

The final Council meeting for 2011 was held at PLC. The evening began with an inspiring talk by Ms Ingrid Cummings who spoke to the students about her life as a street kid and her subsequent journey of embracing education and completing her University degree. Derek Nannup spoke to the students about his journey as a busking didgeridoo player around the world. He shows the students different techniques of making sounds and explained how they were made and where they came from.

Ingrid and Derek then conducted a traditional dance workshop with the students, which ended in a dance off.

Roni thanked the Student Council, especially the work of President Trevor Menmuir and Vice President Jono Farrar, and presented them with a Future Footprints T-Shirt and cap each. Students look forward to the 2012 Student Council meetings, which will be held once a term at a host school.

Black and White Social

St Brigid’s College

A very successful fun-filled night was held recently at St Brigid’s College with the Black and White Social. In the spirit of reconciliation, students were invited to bring along a non-Indigenous friend to enjoy the night.

There were well over 140 students in attendance. St Brigid’s College provided a fantastic DJ who pumped out all the latest music and staff did a wonderful job of supervising students. Future Footprints provided a sausage sizzle for the night.
Two Mid Term Break Camps were held at the Department of Sport & Recreation (DSR) Camp at Point Walter in Bicton, this year. The camps were developed from an identified need to offer students, families and schools a safe, supervised and positive place for students to access whilst residential houses are closed during term breaks.

The program is designed to ensure maximum participation in all activities. Our goal is for the students to have a valuable learning experience whilst at the same time having fun and socialising.

The activities selected for the camp are facilitated and coordinated by Point Walter. All activities endeavour to promote team building, trust and leadership.

Over the period, more than 65 students participated in the two camps. Future Footprints staff had excellent assistance from students from UWA and Murdoch University, volunteering as supervisors and were ably assisted by the Leadership Group of Year 11-12 students at the camps.

Students enjoyed the camp activities of abseiling, rafting, flying fox and rope courses. Additional activities were added such as a Welcome to Country, a Quiz night and a Music Talent Night. All these activities were extremely successful and students acquired themselves admirably. The quiz nights are very popular and provided a great opportunity for interaction between participants. Students really enjoy quiz nights and have become very knowledgeable on topics such as Aboriginal history, sports, and music. Prizes are awarded for the winning table and other small prizes for games throughout the night.

A day out from the DSR activities was organised at the ice skating rink in Mirrabooka. Students thoroughly enjoyed the skating which was followed by a takeaway lunch before returning to camp.

Students were formed into groups at the start of camp to work on an act, skit or song, of their choice, to perform at the End of Camp Talent and Music Night. Invited musician Jason Bartlett judged the talent show and awarded prizes.

Mid Term Workshop Camps

Jason commented that he is always amazed by the talent that is presented. Jason and his band ended the night with a performance for the students.
The 2011 Future Footprints Indigenous Careers Expo is organised by the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA). The Association aims to support Indigenous student engagement in education and to enhance their transition to and from school, to further education, employment and training.

Over 200 students explored careers with more than 35 different organisations at the innovative Careers Expo, which is held annually at the University of Western Australia Business School. The attending students were from regional and remote areas of WA, who study at participating Independent boarding schools in Perth.

Now in its fourth year, the Future Footprints Indigenous Careers Expo is a wonderful opportunity to support Indigenous students to engage in productive employment opportunities. This year, Future Footprints has been very fortunate to secure sponsorship from Woodside to coordinate the Careers Expo and, in association with the Indigenous Studies and Business School at the University of Western Australia, the Expo was a huge success.

35 exhibitors participated in the Expo ranging from Universities, corporate and government sector TAFE’s, government departments and companies such as ANZ, BHP Billiton, Woodside, and NAB.

The expo kicked off with a formal welcome by Leonard Collard and a dance performance from Olman Walley and the Wesley College Moorditj Mob.

At the Expo students got the opportunity to seek information on university courses, pathways and scholarships as well as employment options. They heard inspiring stories from former Future Footprints students now studying at university and those currently employed. Ex-students of the Future Footprints program remain committed to our annual Future Footprints Indigenous Careers Expo. Future Footprints value and appreciate their knowledge in building on the support they have received in the program, by providing mentoring for students; encouraging current students to make great career choices and by being inspirational role models. Feedback from students indicate that they really enjoyed hearing from former students, Courtney Winmar from St Mary’s, Roki Bin Swani from PLC, Devyn Jackamarra from Wesley and Ronald Bin Swani from Christ Church, about their University journeys.

Local musician Jason Bartlett, performed a closing motivational song for the students. Thanks to the sponsorship from Woodside, we were able to purchase an iPod Touch for a student who completed a questionnaire by visiting all of the stalls. This was won by a very delighted Year 11 student, Dana Anaru from St Brigid’s College.

Woodside also hosted the inaugural Woodside Career Pathways Breakfast. The breakfast was held at the University Club at UWA in August. Over 20 Indigenous Program Coordinators and Career Councillors in schools attended the event, where Woodside staff presented an overview of Career Pathways, Scholarships and cadetships opportunities within Woodside for Indigenous students.
A very successful Graduation Dinner was held at Aquinas College in early September.

Roni Forrest was the MC for the evening. The dinner speaker was Mr Ben Wyatt MP, who spoke of his inspirational education journey beginning as an ex-Aquinas student, his tertiary education experience here and in England, and graduating as a lawyer before embarking on a political career.

A Welcome to Country was given by Matt McGuire a parent of an Aquinas student and former student of Swan Christian College, a school located in Swan Valley. Matt’s vast knowledge of Noongar country was extremely interesting and gave students another insight into the cultural understanding of Noongar people.

Twenty four students were presented with a Certificate and Graduation gift.

Class of 2011:

Iona Presentation College
Florence Beck
Suarayah Bin barker

Aquinas College
Liam Brogan Henry
Richard Walley

St Brigid’s College
Tamika Hunt
Angel Hayward
Tahnee Bedford Phillips
Suraya Samba
Dana Anaru

Hale School
Tory Rickerby
Sebastian Robinson-Arrow
Patrick O’Meara

Scotch College
Jay Collard
Jacob Armstrong
Scott Young

Christ Church Grammar School
Ernie Johnson
Kenichi Shinjo
Jeff Fong

Methodist Ladies College
Gningla Taylor Uink
Aqualla Milne King

Guildford Grammar School
Dylan Ugle

Wesley College
Jayden Narkle
Kale Robinson
Russell Fitzgerald

2010 Students - Where are they now?

Gerald Ugle - Guildford Grammar School
AFT Footballer at Great Western Sydney Football Club

Charles Mallard - Wesley College
at UWA bridging Student

Marlee Hutton - Iona College
Studying Marine Science at Murdoch College

Courtney Winmar - St Marys Anglican School for Girls
Study Bachelor Law/Commerce at University of WA

Brandon Narkle - Wesley College
Indigenous Business traineeship at Dept of State Development
School Activities

Santa Maria

Year 8 students of Santa Maria College were privileged to hear an inspiring speech from mentor Peter Dawson, a Notre Dame Law student. Peter’s talk was based on the Stolen Generations and changes to the Australian Constitution. Peter was invited back to speak to students on social justice issues from an Indigenous perspective.

Iona College

Roni spoke on the History of NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) at the College assembly and presented the Principal with a message stick on behalf of Future Footprints support network students. A presentation was given to Year 11 students on social justice issues, reconciliation and the Stolen Generation by Roni Forrest, Andrew Beck and Peter Dawson. Personal development and self awareness workshops have also been conducted at the College.

Hale School

A workshop on developing and understanding Indigenous students was held recently at Hale School. Academics from Curtin and Edith Cowan University delivered a very successful workshop for teachers, boarding school staff and administration staff.

Wesley College – School excursion

Roni was invited to the excursion Wesley took at the end of Term 1 to the Forest Eco Education Centre. The students were taught many cultural skills such as spear throwing, making bush knives and learning about Noongar bush foods.

Perth College

Perth College were lucky enough to be invited to Clontarf Aboriginal College to play in a combined basketball game and be a part of the ceremony to meet the Queen. Emma Cameron and Marijah Lwoy were chosen to be interviewed by one of the world’s largest media outlets - the BBC.

Scotch College

NAIDOC activities were numerous at Scotch College. At one of these events guest speaker and musician Jason Bartlett spoke of his music journey and the importance of education. Mount Margaret Primary School were guests at the school and sang songs.

Guardford Grammar School

Students from Guildford Grammar School participated in the Department of Indigenous Affairs Leadership Workshop. The workshop consisted of various activities, guest speakers and role models. Student Adam Desmond was rewarded for his leadership skills.

Planned 2012 school activities

- Proposal to host a Network Dinner with the representatives from corporate sector for leadership students.
- Cultural workshops.
- Leadership workshops.
- Self-esteem and personal development workshops.
Community and Cultural Activities

Welcome to Country
The beautiful setting at Kings Park was the location for the Welcome to Country this year. A Welcome Ceremony is traditionally given by a Noongar person to the Future Footprints students.

It is protocol for Aboriginal people when entering another group’s country to signal your intentions and be accepted into their country. The ceremony shows a respect for the traditional custodian, the Whadjuk people of Noongar country.

To honour this we engage Noongar Elders to welcome students who come from all parts of the State into Noongar Country at a significant meeting point in Perth.

The day gave students a chance to meet with fellow students or siblings from other schools. They networked and develop friendships with other support networks such as the YLP partners, the Kimberley Klub, and school staff in attendance and know that they are not alone in their pursuit of education.

Sorry Day
Sorry Day was traditionally held for Future Footprints schools at UWA. This year, there was a community event organised by Caritas and the Stolen Generations Alliance at Wellington Square in East Perth.

Students from several schools participated and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Students heard speakers form the Stolen Generations, Welcome to Country, Musicians, David Wirrpanda and participated in the many activities organised for the day.

UWA Discovery Day
Students from St Brigid's College, Iona Presentation College and Presbyterian Ladies’ College enjoyed a wonderful day of discovery at UWA recently. Students engaged in hands-on activities at several locations on campus. They visited a variety of classes including multi-media, sports science, mechanical engineering and engaged in other activities where students experienced first-hand the university environment.

The School of Indigenous Studies organised a range of activities for Indigenous high school students under its Outreach Program. These included the Year 12 Seminar, Year 9-11 Science, Engineering and Health Camp, Year 8 Discovery Day and Campus Challenge as well as sponsoring students to attend WACE Revision Courses.

UWA Indigenous students acted as group leaders and role models on the day.

Smoking Ceremony
Students who attended the June Mid Term Camp were privileged to be a part of a smoking ceremony conducted by Simon Forrest a Balardong man.

They especially enjoyed participating in the Smoking Ceremony conducted by Associate Professor Simon Forrest of Curtin University. Simon also gave an educational talk on the history of the area and presented a timeline which students assisted in presenting. This gave them an eye-opening view of the antiquity of Australian Aboriginal culture in the context of world history. Students commented that it was one of the best ceremonies they have participated in and Trevor Menmuir thanked Mr Forrest.

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A database of former Future Footprints students has been developed so that they can act as mentors for the current students. Former students of the program willingly give their time to continue to assist the Future Footprints Program. Future Footprints value and appreciate their knowledge in building on the support students received in the program. Ex-student encourage current students to make great career choices and are recognised as inspirational role models. Mentors such as ex-Wesley student Rhonen Maher who is studying Commerce at UWA, and ex-Christ Church student Harley Johnson acted as Camp Supervisors at a Midterm Break camp. Both say they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will be happy to do it again.

Mentors of the program receive huge benefits such as: building on their public speaking skills, the opportunity to build their networks, and give back to the community.

Kaitlyn Williams - PLC
Kaitlyn Williams is a Noongar girl from Esperance, WA. She is the first Noongar girl from the South West to win an Indigenous Youth Leadership Program scholarship with Madalah and enrol in Year 11 studies at Presbyterian Ladies College in Mosman Park.

Kaitlyn is very proud of her achievement in securing the scholarship. “I would like to study law and become a magistrate. I think there are too many Aboriginal people being over represented in the prisons and justice system.”

Kaitlyn really enjoys life at boarding school. “I am really enjoying my life at PLC now as initially I never wanted to go to boarding school. But everyone has been so encouraging and Mrs Wise has been so helpful and I think now as I am doing better it can open doors for other Noongar girls to come to boarding school and get a better education than down home.

I love boarding as it helps me to get to know other girls and to interact with different people. We get to do so many different activities on the weekends like shopping, visit the City and Fremantle and go the movies. I really like the routine you get into at the Boarding House and you get to have a good space to study without the distractions of your family and everyone is really helpful. I do miss my family down Esperance sometimes especially my little sister but I can get to Skype her and talk to her that way.

PLC has given me heaps of help since I have been here and they have organised a tutor to get my grades up. The teachers are really nice and the classes seem smaller we get more assistance.”

Future Footprints supports and congratulates Kaitlyn on her scholarship and wishes her good luck in her education journey and boarding experiences.

Mentoring with Future Footprints

Student Profile
Upon entering Wesley College’s Moorditj Centre you are immediately impressed and know you are entering into a special place. The room is decked out in colours of the Aboriginal flag, artefacts and didgeridoos are placed on the floor for students to pick up and use at will. Walls are adorned in beautiful paintings and impressive photos of events of Moorditj Mob’s performances.

The Moorditj Mob is a cohort of 32 Aboriginal students at Wesley College. The Indigenous Support Teacher, Lynn Webber, with help from the boys, has made the room a most welcoming environment where Aboriginal families, guest speakers and role models can come and speak with the students or just come and have a yarn and enjoy a cuppa.

Moorditj Mob hosts many cultural events, student meetings and health forums. General information from the community is disseminated from this room and community issues are raised and address with the students.

The Moorditj Mob goes one step further and to promote an Aboriginal cultural presence within the school by teaching didgeridoo, song and cultural Noongar dances. The Moorditj Mob are regularly invited to perform dances for schools and community organisations in the Perth metropolitan area.

Their teacher, Olman Walley, is a Noongar dancer and has been teaching the boys to play didgeridoo’s and cultural dances for five years. The Dance troupe is very popular in Perth and so far this year they have performed 20 dances and turned down many invites.

Teacher Lynn Webber says she thoroughly enjoys working with the boys, “I am amazed at what these boys offer Wesley College, one another, their community, (and me) whilst they are receiving a solid education!”

Lynn Webber and Wesley College are a fine examples of respect and inclusion of Aboriginal culture within the College’s consciousness. Elders are always being invited to the school, and acknowledgements and welcoming ceremonies are always given at important Wesley functions. The college should be commended for helping to create a welcoming special place for Aboriginal students to access and enjoy their educational and cultural journey.

What I like about Moorditj Mob is that it brings everyone together and we learn about everyone else’s culture and how they are different and the same.
Jarrod Rodney - Graduate 2010

What I like about Moorditj Mob is being in a group of blackfellas that are all trying their hardest and striving for their best.
Brandon Narkle - Graduate 2010

What I like is that Moorditj Mob is like a second family and they are my brothers. I also get to learn about different Indigenous cultures from my ‘brothers’ and I get lots of opportunities at Wesley.
Charles Mallard - Graduate 2010

What I like is that you we do a lot of different things such as learning to do traditional Indigenous dances, teaching classes and socials with other Indigenous students.
Daniel Ashwin - Graduate 2010

Best thing about Moorditj Mob is having a support teacher and I love the cultural tours with Elders.
Kai Lockyer - Year 9 2010

I like Moorditj Mob because it is very welcoming and you get a good education.
Sam Schultz - Year 9 2010

United as one mob helps us to learn more about our culture.
Gerrard Hicks - Year 9 2010

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Brandon Narkle - Graduate 2010
**Woodside**

Woodside confirmed their support for Future Footprints with the sponsorship of the Careers Expo, which is an annual event on the Future Footprints calendar. They will also sponsor the Careers Pathways programs to school staff on career pathways and opportunities for Indigenous students who are seeking a career with Woodside.

**ANZ**

ANZ have recently come on board as a sponsor of the Future Footprints program. The corporation, under its education and employment opportunities program which seeks to strengthen and expand their programs to create education and employment opportunities and to improve economic and social inclusion, will support two Long Boarders Weekend workshop camps. They will further support the program by helping build financial capability of students in the delivery of a financial literacy program in schools in 2012.

**Partnership with IYLP Madalah**

Options and opportunities for Indigenous boarding students can be enhanced with a proactive approach in developing partnerships which support students. Future Footprints and Madalah have developed a wonderful working relationship in supporting students financially by mentoring and facilitating the sharing of ideas and practices. Andrew Beck and Roni Forrest work together to provide pastoral care, support mechanisms and access to programs and projects which assist students in their educational journey.

A further strategy of bringing together main support networks of Future Footprints, Kimberley Klub and IYLP has proven to be an excellent mechanism of support for students boarding. It brings a more coordinated approach to strengthen working partnerships with each other to gain the best possible support for the students. We are simply supporting and encouraging each other to achieve the best possible outcome for the students. For example, a meeting was held recently to discuss a strategy to tackle bullying. We are working with a research academic to deliver this workshop in 2012.

Andrew has attended the Future Footprints Mid Term Workshop camps to offer additional support to student. Andrew and Roni facilitated leadership discussions and worked with students on personal development and public speaking.

The Future Footprints Indigenous School Program Coordinators and staff assist Madalah in the supervision of students who attend the IYLP camps throughout Australia.

**Kimberley Klub**

A great night of celebration was had at the Kimberley Klub Graduation. Trevor Menmuir was nominated for a Community Service award and was presented with the award on the night. Students from Iona, Christ Church and Hale attended the evening with staff.

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At Woodside, we take our commitment to the Indigenous communities we work with seriously. And thanks to our Indigenous Employment Pathways, we can open up a new world of career opportunities.

With a focus on building relevant, industry specific skills and combining real-world learning with recognised qualifications, our Pathways provide unique employment prospects in the communities we work in, covering everything from business administration to operational roles at our assets.

**ANZ proudly supports the Future Footprints Program**
## Calender of Important Dates 2012

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<td>St Brigid’s College</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
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<td>August 23-27</td>
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<td>Pt Walter</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
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<td>Year 12 Graduation Dinner</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Coordinators Forum</td>
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Future Footprints Participating Schools

Aquinas College
Christ Church Grammar School
Guildford Grammar School
Hale School
Iona Presentation College
Mazenod College
Methodist Ladies’ College
Penrhos College

Perth College
Presbyterian Ladies’ College
Santa Maria College
Scotch College
St Brigid’s College
St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls
St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School
Wesley College

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