

# Partner Update

GANBINA - AGENTS OF CHANGE MAY 2020



**ANTHONY CAVANAGH**  
CEO

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## **New Ganbina Impact Report 2016-2019**

This new report will be available on our website next month.

New SROI figures show that for every \$1 invested in Ganbina, \$6.60 is created in social and economic value.

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## Demand for Ganbina soars

**Community demand for Ganbina's services has soared to record levels this year. Registrations for new program enrolments are at an all-time high. COVID-19 is creating enormous changes in the school and home lives of our participants. And anxiety about the 2020 amalgamation of all four local major secondary schools into one super school has escalated. Looking ahead, this growing demand for our services is set to continue unabated.**

Here at Ganbina, it's business as usual as we work to meet the ever increasing needs in our community. As always, we are determined to ensure that no child is ever denied the help that he or she needs to overcome disadvantage and achieve their full potential.

However, at the same time as our resources are being stretched further, COVID-19 restrictions are making it hard for us to carry out our usual marketing activities to attract new funding partners.

So in these challenging times, we would like to ask you, our existing partners, for your help.

Are you able perhaps to spread the word about Ganbina's program, and its proven success rates, to others in your network? Or help us to open up conversations with new potential partners? Or suggest new ways that we might continue our marketing activities differently in these challenging times? I am, of course, here to discuss this request with you personally. If you would like to do this, please don't hesitate to call me on 0428 217 332.

On page 2 of this newsletter, I have explained in more detail the reasons why community demand for Ganbina's support is greater now than at any time in our 23 year history; and the new activities we have developed in response.

In closing, my thanks to you as always for enabling our children to develop the skills and tools they need to create a better life for themselves, their children, and their children's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Cavanagh', written over a light grey background.

# Ganbina steps up

## COVID-19

### Current disruptions

The Ganbina team has been working remotely from home since COVID-19 restrictions came in. We have been providing continuous support for our participants and their families, and ensuring we continue to deliver as many of our program elements as possible. We have developed a range of new online program workshops to replace our former group activities; and we are conducting face-to-face mentoring meetings with children and families via Zoom, telephone and email.

### New support mechanisms for distance learning

Learning disruptions due to COVID-19 have increased demand for one on one support from Ganbina's Project Officers. We are providing more frequent contact for children, as well as additional resources for parents, to help them manage changes in their study routines, and to overcome the challenges of distance learning. We have also created a special Relief Fund for families and children who need to buy equipment to study at home, such as laptops, tablets, internet connections and so on.

### Managing the long term impact

COVID-19 has severely impacted ongoing employment prospects and mental health and wellbeing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which will, in turn, compound existing disadvantage in our communities. This will have a very long lasting impact on the children we work with, and we will be developing new program activities and support mechanisms to help them overcome this.

## SUPER SCHOOL CHANGES

The amalgamation of all four major secondary schools in Shepparton into the Greater Shepparton Secondary College in January 2020 has created enormous challenges and changes in our children's educational journey. This has resulted in the need for additional one on one contact and mentoring, over and above our usual program delivery, with children in Years 7-12, and their families. We are also managing more frequent liaison and contact with schools, teachers and government education representatives. We expect this to continue for the next four years at least as children navigate the many changes in the delivery of their secondary school education.

## INCREASE IN PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

Based on registrations of interest, we are expecting a 7% increase in program enrolment numbers in 2020. This is a record increase in program participants. As more children achieve success with Ganbina throughout their education, training and employment journeys, (100% of participants graduated from Year 12 last year), so their family members and friends are inspired to join the program as well. Enrolment numbers have grown steadily over the last four years and that growth is expected to continue in the coming years.



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Ganbina operates Australia's most successful Indigenous school to work transition program. A registered charity, we are an independent organisation which is free from any political, religious or other affiliations. We rely entirely on support from philanthropic trusts, corporate partners and individual donors to carry out our work.  
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