The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.

Collaborating with diverse communities to make a difference

How we are working with the ATSI and CaLD communities to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Overview of Positive Partnerships

• The overall objective of Positive Partnerships is to improve the educational outcomes of school age students with ASD.

• This initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, as part of the Helping Children with Autism package.

• Positive Partnerships comprises a professional development component for educators and a complementary component for parents/carers of school age students with ASD.

The Positive Partnerships Model & Approach

- Collaberation
- Strengthened partnerships between schools & parents/carers
- Improved learning outcomes for students on the autism spectrum
- National development & coordination
- Capacity Building
- State & territory planning & implementation
- Evidence Based
- Local delivery & networks
- Continuous Improvement
Our commitment in Phase 2

- Diverse communities

- Collaborating to make a difference
Distribution Map

WA

SA

QLD

NSW

VIC

Port Lincoln

Shepparton

Hume

Broome Kimberley Region

Capalaba

Coonamble

Ballina

Moree

Dubbo

Leeton

Newcastle

Redfern

Campbelltown

Wiley Park

Nowra

Narooma
What have we learnt?

The key to working with diverse communities is to work side by side with organisations as partners.

Together:

• Identify what is already available
• Identify what is needed
• Identify how needs can be best met
• Identify what role your organisation or service can play
What really matters?

• Be committed to developing strong and equal partnerships

• Be committed to full involvement of organisations or services at the beginning of any new partnership or initiative
The importance of engagement

First step - *Build relationships and partnerships*

- Start with respect – achieved through understanding
- Take on a strength based approach – support family and kinship structures
- Build knowledge and appreciation of cultural practices and history
Keys to establishing effective and culturally respectful engagement

- Get to know the local community – establish trust and credibility
- Initiate contacts and relationships with local community controlled organisations
- Let the community know all about your organisation
- Establish a common purpose
- Make an investment of time
- Make it relevant and contextual
- Stay in contact – effective communication
# Making it relevant

## Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities
- Translated content – manuals
- Translated fact sheets
- Real stories – videos
- Disability awareness poster
- What is autism flyer
- Conversation cards
- Visual resources to assist with routines

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- New workshop content - manuals
- Modified templates and material
- Real stories – videos
- Resources – Autism awareness poster, comic book, storybook, animation, visuals
Finding out about Kevin
Workshop session

Working with ATSI communities to support students with ASD. Practical tools and resources to develop increased awareness and understanding
Friday August 1st  12.45pm
Room: 7C

The cultural view of disability and the implications for planning when working with families and schools supporting school age students with ASD
Friday August 1st  9.10am
Room 7 AB