

EMPOWERING ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG
PEOPLE TO THRIVE



Culture Education Community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

NASCA acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Australia. We honour and respect the cultural heritage, customs and beliefs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples have spiritual and cultural connection with their traditional lands and waters. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the communities on whose land NASCA works.

ARTWORK STORY

Artwork by Nikylah – 15 years old

Nikylah is a Murawari woman from Weilmoringle in Far West NSW and a NASCA student.

Nikylah is passionate about using her art to share her knowledge and skills with students at her school, as well as staying connected to her family and Culture.

Her exceptional artwork has been featured on the 2021 Dubbo College NAIDOC shirts and in the 2022 NAIDOC Week celebrations. Her work can also be seen throughout the NASCA spaces at her school.

Nikylah's dedication and talent were recognized at the 2022 NASCA Youth Awards when she received the Cultural Pride & Inclusion Award.

In the future, Nikylah aspires to start her own business working with children, using her art and knowledge to help them connect with their Culture. She hopes to one day design the Indigenous Round jerseys and boots for her favourite NRL team, the Penrith Panthers.



WE HAVE A VISION OF A PROUD, PROSPEROUS, AND HEALTHY AUSTRALIA WHERE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE.

YOU CAN HELP TURN THIS VISION INTO REALITY...

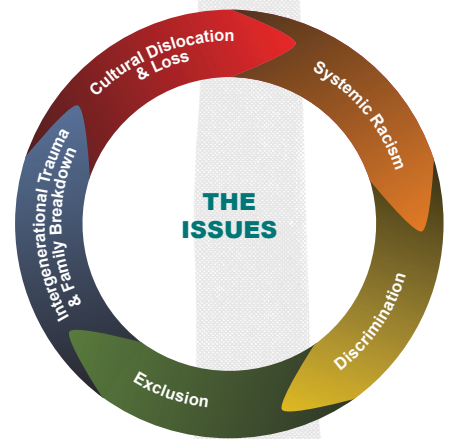
The Opportunity

Connection to Culture is vital to disrupting the cycle of inequality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience.

Culture creates a sense of belonging, builds self-esteem and confidence. Only when people feel strong in themselves can they experience improved social and emotional wellbeing.

When our young people have a strong sense of Culture, self and community, healing is fostered, and this enables positive flow-on effects for their educational and employment outcomes.

This is the opportunity NASCA is responding to.



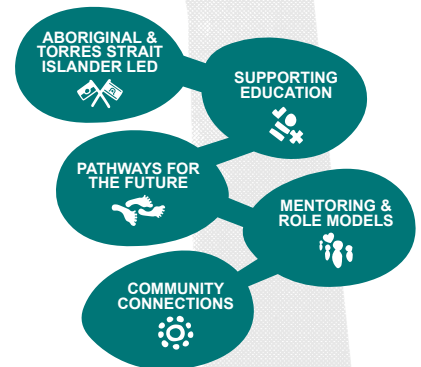
Our Approach

We are by Community, for Community. We have the lived experience to provide the right support to the communities we serve.

NASCA is a 100% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governed and led organisation. Our Indigenous staff bring the lived experience and shared cultural knowledge required to provide the right support to the communities we serve.

We work in schools in urban, regional and remote areas providing our young people with intensive, personal, wrap-around support across the entire school year. We build trust and long-term relationships with them, their families, their schools and their communities.

We support our young people in their education, inspiring, mentoring and building pathways for future opportunities that enable them to thrive at school and beyond.



Our Impact

Our young people experience better outcomes, creating a positive ripple effect for families, schools and the community.

NASCA's unique approach enables our young people to experience better outcomes in:

- **Connection to Culture**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Education and employment**

When our young people feel culturally connected and experience improved social and emotional wellbeing, they're more likely to attend and perform better in school and complete high-school. This educational attainment is key to positive future employment opportunities, better health, safer housing and improved socioeconomic status.

These positive changes don't stop at our young people. They create a ripple effect for families, schools, and the broader community.



WHO WE ARE

We are 100% Indigenous-led and governed. We work with all genders, with a focus on addressing the needs of young Indigenous women.

SINCE 1995 WE HAVE SUPPORTED MORE THAN 17,000 YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.

We are inclusive

OUR VALUES DEFINE US AND OUR WORK

CULTURAL PRIDE AND INCLUSION

Strengthened connection to Culture, sense of identity and belonging, cultural safety and exploration

INTEGRITY

Good governance, responsibility, respect, fairness

EXCELLENCE

High standards, personal best, persistence through challenges

TRUST

Openness, honesty, positivity, commitment

COLLABORATION

Building strong, sustainable, meaningful relationships to work together, participatory, teamwork



NASCA AT A GLANCE

Established
1995

Support
1,600+
young
people a
year

Culture at
the heart of
everything
we do

Work with
ages 5–18

17,000+
young
people
supported

100%
Indigenous
governed
& led

NSW all
genders
program

9 remote NT
communities

Focused
on gender
equity

NSW Young
Women's
Academies

NT volunteer
program

20+ NSW
sites

Pathways
Programs



NASCA
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL
SPORTING CHANCE ACADEMY

STEVIE'S STORY

Immense pride as Stevie becomes first person in her family to graduate high school



“I never thought I’d be here, it’s the best thing to happen to me. I love my job and I can’t thank Tracey and the NASCA program enough. I am so proud, I recommend the program to everyone now.”

FINISHING THE HSC WAS THE LAST THING ON STEVIE’S MIND AS A 15-YEAR-OLD AT THE BEGINNING OF 2020. “I’D BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT AT HOME,” SHE SAID. “I DID NOT WANT TO BE AT SCHOOL.”

No one in her family had ever finished school, but that was all about to change.

The following year, the Wangkumarra woman joined NASCA at Dubbo’s Senior College campus.

Last year, she became the first person in her family to graduate from year 12.

“I had a lot of self-doubts and I was very insecure, I didn’t think I would ever amount to anything or be anything.” Stevie said.

“But once I joined NASCA, they helped me realise my worth, how far I could go, and the things that I was capable of.”

NASCA’s focus is to help Indigenous students like Stevie, connect to Culture, support their academic achievement, and succeed in school.

“We work with the kids to engage them through their culture and help them complete school and then transition to either work or further education,” said NASCA CEO, Alison Bentick.

Dubbo Senior College NASCA Team Leader Tracey Piggot, who was Stevie’s mentor, said all the girls she worked with were special.

“Stevie’s just got a beautiful attitude and outlook on life. Considering where she was back in 2020 when she first came to school, she’s certainly blossomed and grown into a very mature young woman.” she said.

Stevie has since found a job in the aged care sector and continues to be supported by NASCA.





WHAT WE DO

WE WORK IN SCHOOLS ACROSS NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN URBAN, REGIONAL, AND REMOTE AREAS. WE PROVIDE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH INTENSIVE, PERSONAL, WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT ACROSS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR, WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND INCREASING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE, AND ATTAINMENT RATES.

We build trust and long-term relationships with our young people, their families, their schools, and communities. We support them in their education, inspire, mentor, and build pathways for future opportunities that enable our young people to thrive at school and beyond.

HOW WE DO IT

Improving social and emotional well-being

AS AN INDIGENOUS ORGANISATION, WE KNOW HOW VITAL CONNECTION TO CULTURE AND COMMUNITY IS IN FOSTERING HEALING, CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING, BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM, AND ULTIMATELY SETTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE UP FOR SUCCESS.

All NASCA's programs, workshops, and events are designed to strengthen the cultural pride and identity of our young people. We do this by;

- Educating our young people on the diversities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their Cultures, countries, languages, lores, and protocols
- Connecting our young people to Mob
- Engaging with Elders and community members
- Facilitating 'On Country' cultural excursions
- Delivering annual cultural events including; Dreamfest Cultural Camp, Traditional Indigenous Games, NT Camp, NAIDOC Youth Conference, and Youth Awards
- Delivering gender-inclusive workshops that are culturally appropriate and designed to meet the needs of all genders
- Providing programs, workshops, and events that focus on the specific cultural needs of young women and girls
- Delivering personal development workshops that focus on well-being, confidence building, resilience, and motivation
- Having dedicated, culturally-safe NASCA spaces at each of our NSW schools

Improving educational and employment outcomes

NASCA'S PROGRAMS IMPROVE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE, AND ATTAINMENT RATES. ACTING AS MENTORS AND ROLE MODELS, OUR STAFF DELIVER CURRICULUM-ALIGNED WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR THAT ENGAGE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH CULTURE, SPORTS, AND ARTS. WE PROVIDE;

- Cultural workshops and activities
- In-class support
- Homework support
- Assessment support
- Transport to and from school
- Healthy breakfasts, lunches and snacks
- After-school sports and arts activities
- Health and wellness workshops
- Development of work-ready skills such as resume writing, research, time management, goal-setting
- Access to post-school pathways including training, internships, apprenticeships, and scholarship opportunities
- Annual CareerFit Conference, providing employment and education pathways
- Intensive week-long school-engagement programs three times a year in our remote NT communities, encouraging kids to come to and stay in school

Our programs are designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are delivered in collaboration with schools, families, and young people. This ensures the support we provide is holistic and responsive to unique needs. It also allows us to build meaningful, long-lasting relationships that are integral to our success.

In 2023 NASCA had a 95% graduation rate in NSW compared to the State average of 54%

WHERE WE WORK



Airds High School
 Alexandria Park Community School
 Brewarrina Central School
 Canobolas Rural Technology High School
 Chifley College Senior
 Coonamble High School

20 SITES IN NSW AND EXPANDING

Dubbo College Delroy Campus
 Dubbo College Senior Campus
 Dubbo College South Campus
 Glenmore Park High School
 Kempsey High School
 Kingswood High School
 Maitland High School
 Melville High School
 Muswellbrook High School
 Narromine High School
 Singleton High School
 Tempe High School
 Thomas Reddall High School
 Wellington High School



BRENDON'S STORY

How Brendon found safety and a sense of identity after overcoming unimaginable tragedy

“The amount of support I got from NASCA helped me go from hating school to loving school. NASCA changes people’s lives. They changed my life, 100 percent.”

“I DIDN’T WANT TO STAY IN SCHOOL, I HATED IT. I USED TO GET INTO A FAIR BIT OF TROUBLE. EVEN MY DAD KNEW I NEVER WANTED TO FINISH SCHOOL,” SAYS BRENDON.

Like so many young people, Brendon had difficulty adjusting to high school. At the age of 14 he was getting mixed up with the wrong crowd, getting into fights, and in his words was “drifting.”

Then a series of tragic events changed everything. In the space of nine months, Brendon lost his father, his Aunty, and his close friend. Then COVID-19 hit.

“That was big. I had to grow up really quickly. I had to make my own decisions. My Dad always said I knew right from wrong, so I knew I had to pull my head in,” says Brendon.

With his Dad gone, Brendon and his brother Jayden moved from place to place. Brendon eventually moved into his cousin’s home and started attending Kingswood High School, where he joined NASCA.

“I became really connected to my Culture through NASCA, which helped me grow as a person. I got the opportunity to do amazing stuff, like the Dreamfest Camp and Youth Conference which were big steps for me to mature into the person I am,” says Brendon.

“Brendon has overcome a lot of challenges and has become a real leader,” says Rodney Daley NASCA Team Leader, Sydney.

“He sets a great example for the younger kids and takes a lot of them under his wing. Seeing a success story like his is the reason we do the work we do,” says Rodney.

“Sometimes you feel too black to be white, and too white to be black, so having that amazing support system helps with your self-esteem, you feel welcome. It’s a safe space,” says Brendon.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH NASCA, YOU'RE EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE TO THRIVE. YOU ARE INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT SET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE UP FOR SUCCESS. BUILDING THEIR CULTURAL PRIDE, IMPROVING THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING, AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.

Your funds go directly to programs that are designed by, with, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in response to community direction. Our programs are naturally aligned with Corporate Social Responsibility, Diversity, Inclusion, Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP), and Closing the Gap objectives.

We are committed to developing meaningful partnerships and building strong alliances that create lasting social impact and real, sustainable, positive changes.

NASCA is grateful to our partners and donors for their investment and belief in our work.



YOUR IMPACT

NASCA TAKES A CUSTOMISED APPROACH TO OUR PARTNERSHIPS. WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO ENSURE YOUR FUNDS' SUPPORT AREAS OF OUR WORK THAT BEST ALIGN WITH YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION.

Some examples of what your support can provide:

Event sponsorship – \$5,000+ minimum per event

- Can support a NASCA engagement and enrichment event such as; the Traditional Indigenous Games Corporate Challenge, CareerFit, Dreamfest Camp, or NAIDOC Youth Conference.

Bronze Partnerships – \$25,000+ per annum

(for a minimum of three years)

- Can support a week-long, intensive, school-engagement program in one of our remote communities in the Northern Territory, encouraging kids to come to and stay in school.
- Can deliver a Pathways Program Workshop for 100 young people, helping them to access further education and employment opportunities, setting them up for success in that crucial post-school transition period.

Silver Partnerships – \$50,000+ per annum

(for a minimum of three years)

- Can support a 12-month health and wellness program for 100 young people, educating them on the importance of nutrition, health, fitness and well-being.
- Can fund 50 young people to attend NASCA's CareerFit Conference, giving them an opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet professional mentors and build connections and pathways for post-school education and employment opportunities.

Gold Partnerships – \$100,000+ per annum

(for a minimum of three years)

- Can support 70 young people from our remote Northern Territory communities to attend NASCA's annual camp in Alice Springs, providing them with engagement and enrichment activities.
- Can fund a NASCA Program Lead, providing young people with programs, workshops, events, and one-to-one mentoring five days a week for an entire school year.

Platinum Partnerships – \$200,000+ per annum

(for a minimum of three years)

- Can fund a dedicated NASCA Program and Program Lead five days a week for an entire school year, providing academic support, emotional and social well-being, and cultural workshops
- Can deliver a week-long intensive school-engagement program in all nine of our remote Northern Territory communities, encouraging young people to come to and stay in school.



THE IDEAS CHICAGO LAND

BE
Respect

Brooklyn
(masca)

MAXI'S STORY

Haasts Bluff student Maxi heading to high school against all odds

“Maxi is incredibly bright and is great with initiative, I’m so excited to see what she’s going to do, and what the future holds for her,” says Ms Pulevaka.

OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE HARD TO COME BY IN THE REMOTE COMMUNITY OF HAASTS BLUFF (IKUNTJI) THREE-AND-A-HALF HOURS WEST OF ALICE SPRINGS.

Haast’s Bluff boasts a population of around 200 people. The community is serviced by its one-and-only school, catering to students from pre-school through to year six with around 30 children enrolled at any one time.

One of those children is Maxi. At eleven years old Maxi already knows what she wants to do when she grows up.

“When I grow up I want to work in NASCA.” she says.

Since 2015 NASCA has visited Haasts Bluff three times a year providing in-class support, sports, health, mentoring, and personal development activities. These week-long intensive programs are aimed at increasing the school attendance, performance, and attainment rates of students like Maxi.

“When NASCA come to my school everyone come to school,” says Maxi.

School attendance rates for remote Northern Territory communities are significantly lower than the national average, with attendance rates for schools like Haasts Bluff’s – considered “very remote” – sitting at just 50%.

“That’s why these kinds of programs are so important. They provide different opportunities and experiences that encourage these kids to come to school, and explore what they’re interested in whether it’s maths, science, English, or sports. They then take this knowledge into their further education,” says NASCA Team Leader Brooklyn Pulevaka.

“NASCA provides a wonderful, practical program that suits the learning needs of the children, they’re also great role models,” says Geoff Gillman, Haasts Bluff’s school Principal.

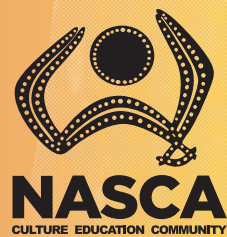
For Maxi, it has been the NASCA programs that have encouraged and equipped her to be able to attend high school in Melbourne next year.

“I’m nervous to go to big school to make friends, but excited too,” says Maxi.



INCORPORATION AND CHARITABLE STATUS

- Incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, INC 2546.
- Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission from 31 December 2012.



TAX CONCESSIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as:

- A Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR 1).
- An Income Tax Exempt Charity (holding tax concessions and exemptions relating to income, goods and services and fringe benefits tax).
- Registered to fundraise under legislation in New South Wales.
- Registration number: 15744

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