



Education Transformations

"Our mission is to be a valued and trusted partner working alongside Indigenous families and communities to design sustainable and successful education solutions"

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Working in the Territory

You have heard about the pain and distress that is so often reported out of remote Australia in the national media. But there is another story. A story of life and hope; and you can be part of it.

The Northern Territory is a place of great challenges and wonderful opportunities. Over the past ten years, Education Transformations has worked in partnership with NT Christian Schools, Tiwi Education Board and the Warlpiri Education Board. These partnerships have produced some of the most exciting new initiatives in remote Indigenous education in Australia.

The most important resource these communities need are people to stand as partners with them in undertaking nation building through the development of education and training that they can shape.



We urgently need teachers, house parents, trainers and trades-people. If you feel a calling to live and work in the Northern Territory start a conversation with us today. We have many settings in need of people for 2011 — urban, regional and remote. Contact is at admin@edtrans.org.au or call us on 08 8920 4314.



Baniyala—

Baniyala Community continues to battle for quality education they are able to control providing a future of their young people. Baniyala community members recently submitted a petition to the NT parliament asking that their planned new Christian school be registered.

A registration application was lodged over 12 months ago but no response has been received by the community.

See letter from Baniyala to parliament attach to your newsletter email.

Mapuru Christian School opens 1st Day, 43 students and growing



The remote community of Mapuru has been celebrating the opening of their new school with teachers Linda Miller and Penny Whittaker. The old homeland learning centre is quickly being transformed as the roll continues grow (currently at 58) with more students waiting to join them as accommodation becomes available.

Determined community leaders with the support of Northern Territory Christian Schools system have made the seemingly impossible finally possible. The school, however, is not without its challenges, the most important being accommodation for our early



childhood teacher Penny and her family. As more infrastructure is built student numbers are expected to continue to rise.

Mapuru is situated south of Elcho Island on the mainland in Arnhem Land some 600 km east of Darwin. With Gawa Christian School and a further school planned for Baniyala these remote school initiatives signal a new approach to remote homeland education. Community-driven education secures quality outcomes for the students and forge a future for these vital homeland communities.

"Our vision is to see happy, healthy Indigenous families and communities shaping their own future."

Indigenous Education Alliance

Alice Springs Meeting



Ellena Cartwright

Ellena is our Katherine based family strengthening trainer and researcher. Ellena's work focuses on young mothers and their children in the Katherine region. The goal of our programme is to see young mothers supported to nurture healthy children and find hope for their family's future..



International Transforming Education Conference

Education Transformations is organising a major international conference for Christian educators in July 2011. Four internationally renowned speakers have been confirmed to date: Os Guinness, Raquel Hatter, Samson Makhado and John Dickson. The conference website is now active and registrations are flowing in.

If you would like to register for this event go to: www.transformingeducation.org.au
Book now to avoid disappointment!



12-14 JULY 2011
DARWIN
northern territory
AUSTRALIA
www.transformingeducation.org.au



On the 19th of August a number of representatives from Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory and

Western Australia met to discuss the education of Indigenous young people in communities located in remote areas. Out of this meeting this group has now published a communiqué to the media and is seeking a response from both local and national governments in the area of provision of education to Indigenous communities. Currently there are thousands of children and young people with no means to effective education. This number is only to increase as these communities continue to grow.

IEA believe that currently there is a very important factor missing in education, community-driven input. There are a number of communities asking for help to set up their own education facilities where currently projects by external providers are failing terribly. The IEA seeks real changes in communities supported by government on all levels including Land Councils.

The aim: introduce solutions with real results and real outcomes with children and young peoples education and contributing to their communities and society.

Teaching at Woolanig

Bron Bray talks of her experience

What made you join us as a teacher? Brad and I came up to the NT around Easter 2002 to begin work with the setting up of WHCC...We moved on to the current site in August 2002 – to be ready to bring the students in for the new school term. For us it was an exciting opportunity as educators to be involved in something from the start – to establish a whole new school. It has been a wonderful journey, as we have been constantly amazed by the ways that God has worked in this situation.

What keeps you going in your role? Looking forward to see what God is doing here. Knowing that it is God's place and we have a part to play in what he is choosing to do. We also treasure the opportunity that we have to speak and action God's truth in the lives of young people, and we have a great hope for generational change (we have a part to play – but the real change is God's work).

What have you learnt from your experience? Only God Knows – many times we have arranged and planned things – then suddenly a funeral will happen and 50% of the students will be gone. We have learnt not to react, or be upset when these changes happen because so many times things have worked out it amazing ways – far better than we could ever plan.

What advice would you give to others looking to be house parents in the near future? Don't arrive thinking you know the answers – or that you have the skills to handle things...[and] be prepared to extend grace to others.



Life Space Crisis Intervention changing lives

July saw Mark Freado flying into Darwin from his home in Ohio, USA to deliver a four day Life Space Crisis Intervention course for those who work with challenging youth. Mark shared from a his 30 years experience around the world with youth in crisis and the latest brain science developments to demonstrate how to work with youth in a collaborative and positive way. The feedback from the course was overwhelmingly positive with participants finding they are better equipped to empathise and work positively with young people.

The entire staff team staff from Woolanig Homeland Christian College were involved and have found the training brought a new cohesion to the entire College team.

