



# Aboriginal Leadership Cross-Cultural Solutions program

## What the participants told us

### Some of our biggest concerns are:

- the impact of drugs and alcohol on young people
- abuse in households and how this affects youth
- parents not taking responsibility for and supporting their children
- bullying and peer pressure
- pressure from school (assignments, ATAR, school work) and feeling anxiety
- school attendance and people to help keep your grades up
- having strong positive role models in our community
- for Aboriginal youth, the loss of learning traditional culture protocols
- finishing school and finding meaningful jobs.

### We would really like to see more opportunities for:

- young people to socialise and be engaged in the community – places where young people feel welcome and safe
- to receive support when we need it and have good support networks and people we trust
- to receive affordable and relevant education
- to have community events that cater for everyone
- to speak up in our communities
- for school to be more integrated with the whole community
- more opportunities for cross-cultural activities and interactions

- to play a role in building safe communities which are inclusive for all people and where Aboriginal culture is celebrated and shared in the mainstream.

### **The importance of role models:**

- We think having role models is really important. Role models help us to visualise what we can aim for, and give young people someone to look up to and do good. Without role models, we wouldn't be inspired by anyone.
- We need to be able to identify the role models in our communities. There should be more showcasing of local role models so young people know who they are.

### **The role of communities, services and programs:**

- We would like to tell people who work with children and young people that they need to support young people to be leaders, to have a voice and to have a say for their future. And everyone should work together equally.
- The last thing we would like to say is that we think it is really important that everyone in communities work together towards a common goal, instead of people being divided.

### **The role of young people:**

- When provided with opportunities, young people prove they have the interest in and ability to provide valuable insight and expertise on the issues that affect us.
- We help others to follow the pathways that we have taken and encourage others to try their best and keep going. We try to support children to create a better future for themselves by coming to school and joining in activities like sport.
- We also need to remind adults and role models about the issues that are important to us so that they can see how serious we are and make it a priority. We also want more young people to be included because we, this leadership group, can't do it all by ourselves.