Overview

As educators, academics and professional support staff we all play a significant role in student education and well-being, but how do we build relationships based on high expectations; promote positive cultural identity and Indigenous leadership in our schools?

Schedule

The Making Tomorrow Forum brings us together to consider these questions through the following themes:

- Engaging and motivating students for success
- Building a culture of high expectations within the school community
- Enabling and facilitating conversations with staff and students to promote a culture of high expectations and positive identities
- Supporting student progression to higher education

9:00am  Registration

9:15am  Acknowledgement of Country
         Welcome to the University of Sydney
         Professor Shane Houston, Deputy Vice Chancellor
         Indigenous Strategy & Services

9:30am  Keynote address
         Dr Chris Sarra
         Stronger Smarter Institute
         Questions & Answers

11:00am Morning tea

11:30am Session 1: What works?
       Selected participants present examples of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student-focused program or strategy, which resulted in the transformation of school culture and student expectations. Presentations will be selected from submissions made as a part of your registration.

1:00pm  Lunch

1:30pm  Session 2: Changing the conversation
       Dr Chris Sarra facilitates a workshop using a selection of case studies from the Stronger Smarter Institute.

2:00pm  Session 3: The students’ perspective
       A panel of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students share experiences which have helped, inspired and motivated them during their schooling.
       Questions & Answers

2:30pm  Closing remarks and farewell
Keynote speaker

Dr Chris Sarra is the founder and Chairman of the Stronger Smarter Institute. Chris grew up in Bundaberg in Queensland, the youngest of ten children, and experienced first-hand many of the issues faced by Indigenous students throughout their schooling.

Encouraged and supported by teachers and mentors, Chris successfully completed a Diploma of Teaching, a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education and a PhD in Psychology with Murdoch University. His thesis has been published in a book released in 2011, titled Strong and Smart – Towards a Pedagogy for Emancipation Education for First Peoples.

In the 1990s, Chris took on the challenges of Indigenous education as Principal of Cherbourg State School in southeast Queensland. Under Chris’ leadership, the school became nationally acclaimed for its pursuit of the Stronger Smarter philosophy, which significantly improved the educational and life outcomes of its students.

In 2011, Chris was Queensland’s nomination for Australian of the Year. By sharing his own journey, Chris encourages other leaders to accept the Strong and Smart challenge.

Registration

Please register your attendance at the Making Tomorrow Forum here.

There is no registration fee. Participants are required to pay for their own transport and accommodation.

Call for presentations

As a part of your registration, participants are invited to submit an example of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student-focused program or strategy, which resulted in the transformation of school culture and student expectations.

A selection of these submissions will be presented and discussed in group settings during the day.
Parking

- Pay & Display parking is available at the University of Sydney at a flat rate.
- Hourly parking is available after 3pm except at the Western Avenue and Shepherd Street Carparks.
- Please read parking signs clearly and come prepared with change on the occasion a machine will not accept credit card.
- Please display the parking ticket on your dashboard. Failure to do so may incur an infringement notice which the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for.

- Payment can only be made using $1 and $2 coins. Change machines for converting notes to coins are located:
  - On Manning Road in front of the Old Teachers’ College
  - Behind the Wentworth building in Maze Crescent.
  - In the Shepherd Street Carpark.
  - On Western Ave near the entrance to the Western Avenue (underground) Carpark.

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodation. Rydges Camperdown and Adara Camperdown are within walking distance to the venue.

Contact us

Social Inclusion Unit
Baxter’s Lodge F02
The University of Sydney
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compass.events@sydney.edu.au

Map and Directions
What is Compass?

At the University of Sydney we are committed to enriching our community by bringing together people from all social and cultural backgrounds. We welcome promising students from around Australia and the world, and invest time and money to make sure they are properly supported while they study.

Our academic and teaching excellence is founded on principles of diversity and equity and, as a leading Australian university, we have a responsibility to continue to live by these principles.

The University’s Compass program works with young people, their teachers and parents, to build the confidence and motivation to succeed through education and make informed decisions about their post-school options. In this way, we work to address the under-representation in higher education of students from low socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and regional students.

Since launching in 2009 Compass has engaged over 110,000 students, teachers and parents in their schools, communities and on campus. For more information, see sydney.edu.au/compass.

Compass is an initiative of The University of Sydney and funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Higher Education Participation Program and donations to the University of Sydney.

Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu Strategy

The Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu (a thinking path – to make tomorrow) Strategy renews the University’s commitment to the promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, engagement, education and research. A key element of this strategy is the provision of opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to study at one of Australia’s best universities.

The University of Sydney offers, through Compass, a multi-layered approach to support the academic and personal preparation of young people for higher education. This includes opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to experience university life, engage in fun, educational activities in a supportive and inclusive environment and access to homework and study assistance.

For more information see:
- sydney.edu.au/compass/programs