



Case Study: School to Work

The School to Work (S2W) program is the flagship community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program for the National Rugby League, of which the Wests Tigers are a key stakeholder and supporter. S2W is an aspirational mentoring program that utilises the positive profile of Rugby League to deliver meaningful education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

The program is the result of a partnership between the NRL, NRL Clubs and the Australian Government to improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the development of the Learn Earn Legend! strategy and connection with NRL’s Indigenous All Stars team.

S2W is a holistic program that targets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 11 and 12, which works to ensure that students not only graduate high school, but achieve post-school outcomes whether it be further study or employment. The specialist staff employed to deliver the program set high expectations for the participants, and have supported more than 3,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to achieve their career goals with a success rate in 2016 of 98%.

The Wests Tigers are proud supporters of this program and work very closely with the School to Work team on a range of initiatives and opportunities for participants. These include providing work experience for participants, which is followed up by a letter of reference from the club to thank and acknowledge the students for their time. Other ways the club supports this program is through networking opportunities through existing and future sponsors, cultural experiences during Indigenous Round, access to players and training and promotion and recognition of the great achievements of the participants.



“The support Wests Tigers provide the Indigenous community through the NRL School to Work program has been integral to the ongoing success of students who have graduated from the program. Wests Tigers have played a significant role in demonstrating through the use of Rugby League how to actively engage the Indigenous community to promote and provide significant education and welfare outcomes.”

The continued collaborative approach of the West Tigers, working with the Indigenous community will furthermore work towards Closing the gap between Indigenous socio-economic outcomes in the community.”

Kristian Heffernan, School To Work Program Manager