

Staff have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to implement culturally responsive pedagogical practices: 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning at Casino High School

Purpose

To improve staff knowledge, skills and confidence to implement culturally responsive pedagogical practices at Casino High School through whole-of-school embedding of the *8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning*³⁴ (*8 Ways*) pedagogy framework. *8 Ways* encompasses Aboriginal perspectives to improve learning outcomes through eight interconnected pedagogies involving story-based learning, learning maps, hands-on and non-verbal techniques, use of symbols and images, land-based learning, non-linear and synergistic logic, modelling and scaffolding, and community links.



Target group

All staff and students, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous students across all Year groups.

Activities

All staff participated in the *8 Ways* 10-hour professional development program, supporting educators in reflecting on their personal cultural orientation to learning, and exploring and implementing the framework to enhance teaching through rather than about culture. During Term 1 2020, Casino High School embedded the *8 Ways* pedagogical framework into every Key Learning Area's scope and sequence to alter the way lessons were delivered to all students. Staff were expected to use the symbols in their programs and incorporate *8 Ways* into each lesson.

PDHPE Faculty program register with 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning embedded across a Year 9 Unit of Learning:

Casino High School PDHPE 2020							
Stage:	4	5	Year:	7	8	9	10
Strand(s):	Health, Wellbeing and Relationships		Movement Skill and Performance		Healthy, Safe and Active Lifestyles		
Propositions:	Focus on Educative Purposes		Take a Strengths-based Approach		Include a Critical Inquiry Approach	Develop Health Literacy	Value Movement
Unit title:	2. Reflections of Me			8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning:			
Unit description:	In this unit we explore and analyse health resources and advocate for health, safety and wellbeing and lifelong physical activity.			Land links Non-linear Deconstruct/Reconstruct Learning maps	Story sharing Activity 4, 8 Symbols and images Non-verbal Community links		

Outcomes

Whole-of-school embedding of *8 Ways* at Casino High School enhanced staff capacity and shifted the way in which lessons were delivered away from 'chalk and talk' towards scaffolded lessons offering diverse and hands-on activities responsive to the learning needs of each individual student. During Term 1 2020, implementation of a wide range of learning opportunities by staff were observed, resulting in high levels of student engagement and task completion.

Learnings

8 Ways was effectively implemented and resulted in increased engagement and learning across the school. Deeper assessment of outcomes is required, but difficult given the current COVID-19 climate.

³⁴ Regional Aboriginal Education Team, Western Area. NSW Department of Education and Communities (2014). *8 Ways: Aboriginal Pedagogy from Western NSW*, RAET, Department of Education and Communities, Dubbo, NSW.