

# 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<sup>34</sup> (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.



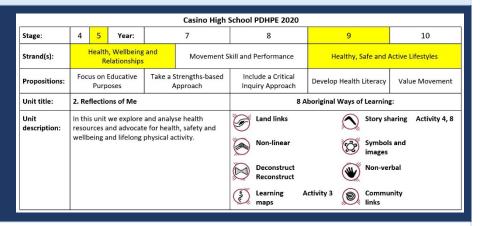
# Target group

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:



### **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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> 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.